

On Top Of The News

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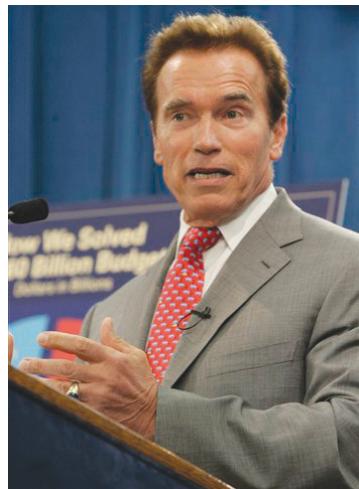
Saturday, July 25, 2009



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum**
US\$ 68.13
↑1.97

INSIDE TODAY
U.S. NEWS

BUDGET BALANCED



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger discusses the Legislature's passage of a package of about 30 bills to deal with the state's \$26 billion state budget deficit during a Capitol news conference in Sacramento, Calif., Friday, July 24, 2009. Schwarzenegger is expected to sign the budget bills early next week.

*See International News on
Page B5*

SPORTS NEWS

JUDGING VICK



In this May 21, 2009, file photo, suspended NFL quarterback Michael Vick, right, steps out onto the deck with a federal agent in Hampton, Va. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, teams, fans and sponsors are among those who will weigh in on Vick's future.

See Sports Today on Page B12

**FUNDACION SALBA NOS BURICO:
One Address for
All Our Donkeys**



PALM BEACH - The Save Our Donkeys Foundation began in April 1997, to represent the continuous existence of the Aruban donkey and to collect and care for all donkeys 'in distress': illness, injury, mistreatment, etc. At this moment we are caring for 90 donkeys (and our numbers grow each year) but spread over 3 sanctuary locations, which are all on loan to us. It is an inefficient use of our very limited resources and precious volunteers (no paid employees).

We now have the opportunity to obtain a very large terrain in the Sanctuary's name. We will be able to consolidate the three locations into one that would be far more efficient for all the volunteers (no paid employees) to take care of all the animals. This is a huge undertaking - for an organization which must already raise a lot of money annually just to pay

for its running costs. We are especially indebted to our visitors for helping us achieve this sum. Our first big job is to properly fence this area and this will take a lot of money, sponsoring and extra volunteer labor. We need your help badly but to make it more enjoyable we invite you to come and relax with us at: A BINGO AFTERNOON: From 2 - 5 pm on Sunday July 26, 2009 in the Marriott Ballroom. A ticket for a 10-game booklet costs Afl. 10, with Fl.2250 in cash prizes (2 full cards @ Fl.750) and door prizes: a dinner for 2 at Marriott Vista Rest. and one in Twister Rest. O'stad and a lunch for 2 at Matilde Rest. and one in Bingo Restaurant Noord, a mobile phone and a gift certificate of f.50,-. Please HELP us with phase 1 of our big project: ALL donkeys in ONE central location.□

**Dutch bank ING hires
JPMorgan to sell private
bank units**

Dutch bank ING Group has hired JPMorgan to advise on the sale of ING's private banking business in Europe and Asia, which could fetch more than \$1 billion, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

The sale is part of ING's move to raise cash after being hit badly by the global credit crisis, which forced it into a loss in 2008 and led to the Dutch government injecting 10 billion euros into the bank.

"The deal could be over a billion dollar," said a source with direct knowledge of the deal, adding JPMorgan is advising the firm. "But it's a bit early in the process."

ING declined to comment and JPMorgan was not available to comment.

The Dutch bank has been working on a program to reduce risks, raise up to 8 billion euros from asset sales and exit from 10 of 48 countries where it operates.

"I think it is a good sign that will give an extra buffer to ING. Secondly, in private banking, ING will never become a world leader. Strategically it makes sense (to sell)," Rabo Securities analyst Cor Kluis said.

Kluis said he did not expect ING to sell its Dutch private banking business, which administered 20 billion euros in assets out of the total 62 billion euros the Dutch bank had under management at the end of 2008.

He also said a price of more than \$1 billion for the operations, excluding the Dutch unit, was possible.

The sale of ING's private bank unit, which was loss-making in the fourth quarter of 2008, may take a few months and could draw interest from global and Asian players, a second source with knowledge of the deal said.

"Maybe the Australians would be interested or large Euro commercial banks," said a Singapore-based private banker who is not involved in the deal.

The sources declined to be identified because the deal is not public yet.

ING Private Banking made a loss of 12 million euros in the fourth quarter of 2008 due to loan loss provisions at Private Banking Asia, the bank said in February.

ING announced in November the sale of its private banking operations in Curacao to Dutch private bank Van Lanschot to focus its operations on Europe and Asia. The unit managed 500 million euros of assets.

ING shares were unchanged at 7.90 euros by 0858 GMT, in line with the rest of the DJ Stoxx European Insurance index .SXIP.□



**CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
THE TWIX MIX
IN THE NEW McFLURRY**



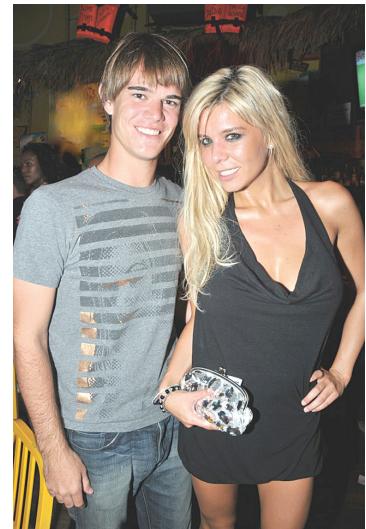
Singles Night tonight with “On Cue” at Mambo Jambo



ORANJESTAD — Mambo Jambo will go off once again tonight with “Single’s Night” frustrated by Whazzup Events & Productions. On Cue is a brand new live orchestra consisting of experienced musicians that have performed in very well known groups and/or bands in the past, like Time, Quasi, EQO, OREO, Touche, Search, etc. On Cue’s front line consist of the sisters Margareth & Maya Marin, Jersey Sophia and Maicky Oliva aka Mighty Campo. On Cue does have a wide variety of music for the taste of everyone. Be ready for their new promotional song and make sure to come and party tonight on 25 July/09 at Mambo Jambo.

Mambo Jambo is located in the center of all the fun in Downtown Oranjestad and a member of the Aruba Wine & Dine. C U There Tonight! □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Celebrating 25 years as Aruba's place to play!

Super Bingo Saturday!

Super 4-Card Bingo starting at 1pm!

\$6 for 4-Card Bingo! • 8 games to play! • \$1,000 in CASH PRIZES!

**Additional \$500 CASH PRIZE in our Early Bird Drawing
when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!**

TOMORROW **Don't miss 20/20 Sunday!**
\$20 CASH giveaways every 20 minutes.

Table games open at 6pm with \$3.00 Blackjack daily!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • www.alhambracasino.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

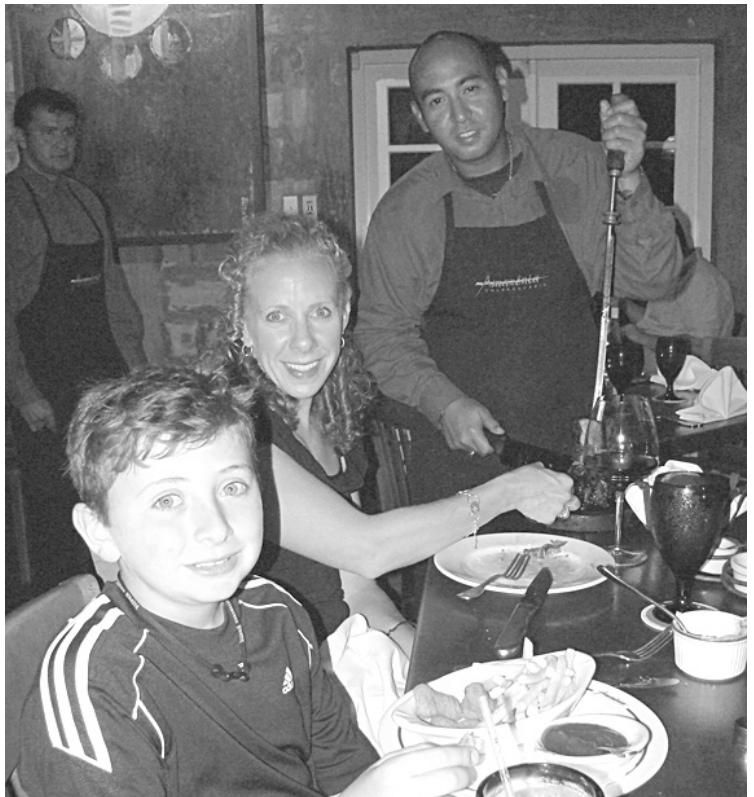
Cleo's
Sports Bar & Grill

Open daily 6pm to 2am
with Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm



Alhambra
CASINO
ARUBA
A DIVI RESORTS PROPERTY

Massachusetts Family loves Aruba and Amazonia



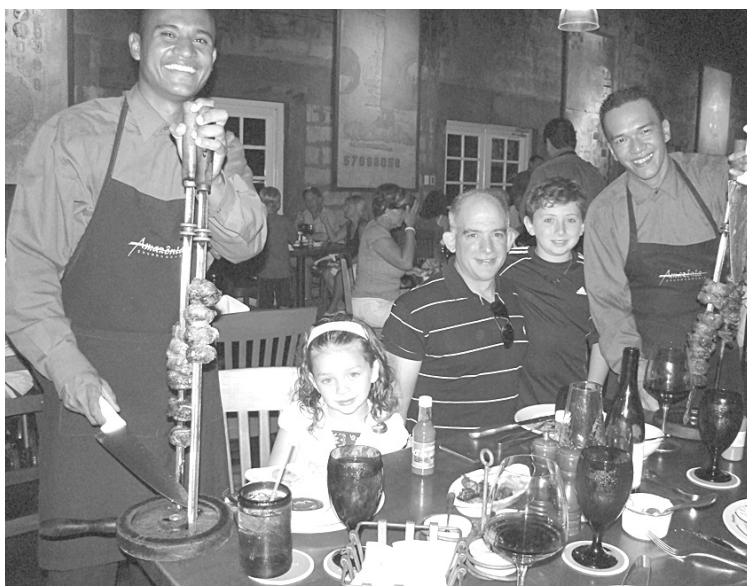
PALM BEACH -- Jennifer & Harry Kavrakis, from Massachusetts, staying at Marriott Surf Club with kids Katerina, 6 going on 7, she

reports, and Nicholas, 9, are enjoying their visit to Aruba. Jennifer is the only one in the family that has been here before. She visited 14 years



ago, when she had just met Harry, but her trip to Aruba was already planned, so she came by herself, kept dating Harry, got married, had 2 kids, while all along promising her sweetheart to return to the island with the family.

Now they're all here for two weeks and a hotel concierge recommended Amazonia, the kids loved the salad bar and the plantains, they also enjoyed the very nice and attentive waiters. The family visited Hawaii, Greece and also other Caribbean islands, yet thinks the beaches here are much nicer! □



SATURDAY'S LOBSTER NIGHT

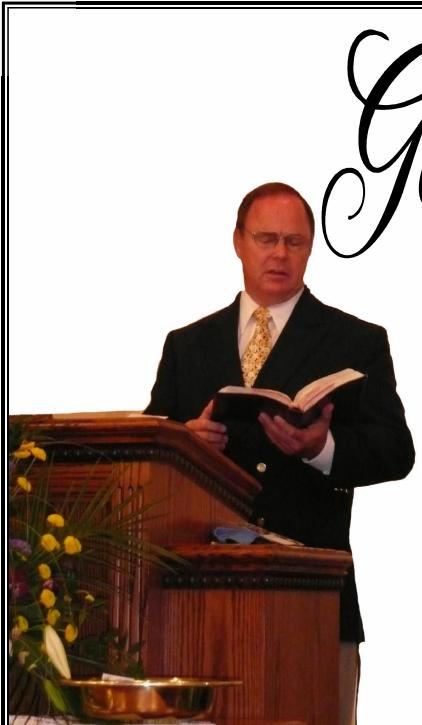


\$ 34.95 per person
+ 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

New England clam chowder or tossed salad with choice of dressing
Steamed Maine lobster with drawn butter and lemon or
broiled Maine lobster with cornbread and crab meat stuffing.



Open Daily
Located downtown in the Renaissance Marketplace
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Tel: (207) 583-5858 or 582-0184
www.waterfrontaruba.com
E-mail: water@setarnet.aw



Good News
Baptist Church
of Aruba

For more information please call us
at 582-8855 or 567-2463

Our services are in English and
translated into Spanish and
Papiamento

We would love to have you visit with us!

The Palm Beach Mall continues to make great progress



PALM BEACH – Like a masterpiece coming to life under the encouraging, gently hand of a master artist, the Palm Beach Plaza is continuing to evolve and reveal its many wonderful surprises.

This week Mall Manager Alex Otterspeer enjoyed the privilege of meeting

and greeting the developers of ArtFusion. They will be featuring artistic articles using a process that is more than five centuries old, bringing good luck to both the maker of the unique pieces and the visitors who purchase them.

Alberto Lopez Dorado, Cielo Lopez Paz & Maria Ximena



Lopez Dorado of Mopa Mopa received their keys attached to a bottle of champagne and promised to deliver a wonderful store. They already successfully operate Art & Tradition on the main street, INTI at Royal Plaza, and The Mask at Paso Herencia.

Otterspeer also met with Dorylee Lopez-Penha, who is developing Candyland, situated right next to the mega plex cinemas. Dorylee Lopez-Penha, just returned from Holland finishing her studies there in the legislative field. She will be importing a wide variety of candies, licorice and much more to delight children and adults of all ages.

Churromania, the first tenant of the upcoming, much-anticipated Food Court, also received his keys. Maikel Samson & Jessy Ramirez, a young and ambitious couple will bring a wonderful product to the mall, delicious churros in various combinations. Look forward to try their crispy churros, and churros with condensed milk & strawberries, at their new Churromania outlet, a popular Latin American franchise.

Johanna Hernandez, of Nautica, picked up the keys to the new store as the representative of the popular boutiques already a hit in town.

Johanna has just returned from Panama where she finalized the shipment of all merchandise to Aruba.

The team of Shivas Gold & Gems, Aruba's finest jewelry store headquartered at Royal Plaza, is busily decorating a large space on the first floor, positioned to become the mall's flag ship anchor.

Developer Ash Ramchandani, reiterated that while Aruba's #1 attraction is definitely the beach, the Palm Beach Plaza is shaping up to become the number two attraction. The Palm Beach Plaza, he confirms,

is in its interior design phase, the last one before the southern Caribbean's largest shopping plaza, opens.

"We look forward," Ash concludes, "to establishing a new benchmark for shopping, a fresh, higher bar for dining and entertainment. We will be there for our clients during the day as well as in the evenings. If the beaches are number one, then we are proud to be number two." □



SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Barcelona
Casa Tua
EL LATIN SON

THE OLD SOUND OF LA HAVANA
SALSA BOLERO
Mojitos & caipirinha

AVVENTURA MALL DOWNTOWN 5885695



At Paseo Herencia

Tonight witness Fashion Life Sessions at Mr. Jazz



PALM BEACH - Fashion Life Magazine is glad to invite you to its most recent production: Fashion Life Sessions. An event that will be held tonight Saturday July 25th, at Mr Jazz to celebrate Fashion Life magazine's Anniversary Edition.

The Fashion Life Sessions is an avant-garde event involving fashion and music in order to: Praise and encourage UPSCALE TOURISM in the island. Honor and market our main sponsors. Serve as a marketing tool to promote Aruba's outstanding portfolio of tourist and local attractions, products and services. Contribute to the island's cultural, artistic and social aspects, actively supporting the local talent (models, artists, and DJs).

Fashion shows by the exclusive Brands DIESEL, HUNKEMOLLER, SHABBY SHIC and SEASON BOUTIQUE will take place during the event along with the most exclusive models of Aruba, Venezuela and Mexico.

On the FASHION LIFE SESSIONS 500 people will enjoy from the special presentation of famous DJ MEG, performances by MONZTER electronic music, and local DJs as DJ Yeimy. Dress Code: Casual. BE TRENDY. BE FUNKY. BE FASHION. BE IT.

Special low price presale tickets: 25 afl. Available at: Underground Cycles, .IT Moda & Stile, Shabby Shic and Mr Jazz's door.

This event is brought to you by: We Marketing, Mr. Jazz, Brickell Bay Aruba, Pelican Adventures, Red Bull, Pantene, Subway, .IT Moda & Stile, Season Boutique, Hunkemoller, Shabby Shic, Koma Models & BeautyTeam. □



Super Sunday Powerball Bingo

Sunday July 26th, 2009

1.00 p.m. at Seaport Casino



SEAPORT CASINO

Open Bar & Free Snacks

PROGRESSIVE AFL.55.548,-

Afl.15,- for 4 tickets of 8 games

Afl. 2,- for 4 progressive tickets

Play Bingo on your Birthday and receive a
FREE Bingo Card

Doorprizes:

- 4x Afl. 25,- cash
- 5x Free Powerball Tickets
- 5x \$5 Free Play on "The Card"

Don't forget our Seaport Powerball @ Seaport Casino
from Monday to Saturday at 1 pm

October 9 & 10 for the Aruba Music Festival

Earth, Wind & Fire to perform in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Earlier this week, the Aruba Tourism Authority announced that the legendary band Earth, Wind & Fire will perform at the 8th Annual Aruba Music Festival to be held October 9 & 10. Earth, Wind & Fire is simply one of the most important, innovative, and celebrated contemporary Pop/R&B music forces of the 20th century. The band has had a remarkable career spanning over four decades with accolades, awards and record-breaking achievements.

Earth, Wind & Fire's signature sound is not easily categorized and since its inception has been profoundly influential... musically, socially, and spiritually.

The musical vision has fused Pop, R&B, Rock, Latin, Funk, Jazz, and African Music into one unique sound. Successfully breaking all musical genre boundaries with 23 albums, Earth, Wind & Fire have recorded eight #1 R&B singles and eight Double Platinum Top 10 Pop Albums over their career.

Earth, Wind & Fire have received 20 Grammy Award nominations and have won six awards as a group; additionally its founding members individually (Maurice White & Philip Bailey) have each won two, totaling eight Grammy Awards. In 2004, Earth, Wind & Fire received the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (N.A.R.A.S.) Signature Governor's Award.

They have earned more than 50 Gold and Platinum albums and have sold over 90 million albums worldwide earning them a place on the list of best selling music artists of all time. VH1 ranked Earth, Wind & Fire number 60 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of Rock & Roll. Rolling Stone Magazine declared the group "changed the sound of black pop."

President Obama invited Earth, Wind & Fire to

perform in the East Room at the White House for the first social event of the new administration. Earth, Wind & Fire made international news when President Obama declared in an interview with Rolling Stone Magazine that the group was among his favorites. He said they are "rhythm and blues and pop staples for me."

Earth, Wind & Fire's career achievements have been acknowledged and earned them their place in musical history. Earth, Wind & Fire have been inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2000); they have received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (1995) and Hollywood's Rockwalk (2003). That same year they received the Vocal Group Hall of Fame Award (2003). The music industry and fans have bestowed Lifetime Achievement honors from ASCAP (Rhythm & Soul Heritage Award - 2002), NAACP(Hall of Fame-1994) and the BET Awards (Life Time Achievement Award 2002). Two Earth, Wind & Fire classic songs have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame: "That's The Way of The World" (2004) and "Shining Star" (2007). Earth, Wind & Fire have 12 American Music Awards nominations and four awards and the group received the Entertainer Award at the 2009 TV Land Awards.

Earth, Wind & Fire are the first African-American performers to sell out Madison Square Garden and to receive the MSG Gold Ticket Award. Earth, Wind & Fire is the first African-American group to receive the Columbia Records Crystal Globe Award for selling the most albums internationally. The principals of Earth, Wind & Fire: Philip Bailey, Verdine White, and Ralph Johnson have received honorary doctorate degrees from the Arts & Media College at Columbia College in Chicago. Co-Founders

Philip Bailey and Maurice White have earned honorary doctorate degrees at Berklee College of Music.

The group's Grammy Awards have exemplified Earth, Wind & Fire's relevance and the connection with contemporary R&B and Pop artists by showcasing the group twice in the 2005 and 2007 television event. The musical highlight at the 2005 broadcast was Earth, Wind & Fire joining forces with Outkast, in what was the Hip Hop group's last television appearance together. In 2007, Earth, Wind & Fire performed on the Grammys with the top nominees Ludacris and Mary J. Blige in a heartfelt poignant message to raise the social conciseness of teenage run-aways.

Many of today's contemporary Grammy Award winning music artists have named Earth, Wind & Fire as their musical influence or have announced that they are die hard fans, including: Beyoncé, Usher and Prince (he thanked Earth, Wind & Fire in his induction acceptance speech at the British Hall of Fame). Alicia Keys proclaims that Earth, Wind & Fire is "the best band ever." Mary J. Blige has shown her appreciation to the band by re-recording one of the bands hit songs "Imagination." Miles Davis described Earth, Wind & Fire as his "all time favorite band" saying "they have everything (horns, electric guitar, singers, and more) in one band" Quincy Jones has proclaimed himself to be the "biggest fan of Earth, Wind & Fire since day one."

The Black Eyed Peas took the stage with Earth, Wind & Fire for a performance at the Super Bowl XXIX, and then an encore by opening the 57th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards together.

Earth, Wind & Fire's songs have been covered by recording artists Jerry Garcia Band, Point of Grace, D'Angelo, Lenny



White, Patti LaBelle, The Manhattans, Wynonna Judd, Yolanda Adams, Incognito, Chaka Khan, Dionne Warwick, the Vienna Boys choir, Herb Albert, Musiq and Tito Puente.

Their songs have also been sampled by numerous artists some of which include: A Tribe Called Quest, Wyclef Jean, Jay-Z, Amerie, The Fugees, LL Cool J, De La Soul, Common, Quenn Pen, Naughty by Nature, P. Diddy, The Roots, Will Smith, Cee-Lo, Mc Lyte and Lisa Left Eye Lopes.

Music artist who name Earth, Wind & Fire as a major influence or inspiration include Usher, wil i am, Mary J Blige, Cherish, Prince, Pharrell Williams, The Neptunes, Jon Secada, Wyclef Jean, Common, Phil Collins, Boney James, Angie Stone, The All American Rejects, Jesse McCartney, Mint Condition, Solange, Babyface, Outkast, Jamiroquai, Marcus Miller, Omarion, Eric Benet, Sheila E., Erykah Badu, Jamie Foxx, Fall Out Boy, Meshell Ndegeocello, Wynton Marsalis, and Mario.

In keeping with the group's spiritual legacy the very principals of which the group was founded and derived its name from, Earth, Wind & Fire has stood for

and profoundly believes in the circle of returning the benefits of success by giving back through supporting the continuation of raising funds and the consciousness of

important social issues.

The Inaugural 2005 Grammy Jam charity event honored Earth, Wind & Fire. The benefit event that was supported by Stevie Wonder, wil.i.am, Indie Arie, Usher and Kanye West performing classic Earth, Wind & Fire hit songs. Fans in the audience, including Prince, were mesmerized. Proceeds from the evening went to many non-profit organizations: The GRAMMY Foundation, California State Summer School for the Arts, the Los Angeles Chapter Scholarship Program, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and For The Arts.

The group's founders have instituted charitable programs that have a direct endowment to local and national music and arts initiatives. Philip Bailey started the organization called Music is Unity Foundation and Verdine White introduced Wright Life Arts Center for the Youth. Earth, Wind & Fire appeared and performed on the first American Idol Gives back special. The program raised money and awareness with the effect of poverty on children and young people in the US and Africa.

Earth, Wind, & Fire remains to this day a top musical phenomenon with a catalog of mega-hits spanning over forty years. Their influences have changed the course of music and perhaps the spiritual conciseness around the world. □

Fishes & More invites you to a special Earlybird Menu

Fishes & More specialize in fresh fish and seafood, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to our dishes. Influences from all over the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange



to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest products!

Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort

(Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy

their dinner as much as you will yours!

We have entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly square are open until eleven.

See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

*Located in the
Arawak Garden
on Palm Beach*

The Earlybird Menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad

Catch of the day

Filet Mignon

Fettuccini Alfredo

Chicken Breast

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables
Early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75
Service charge not included.

For reservations call
(+297) 586-3659



Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café

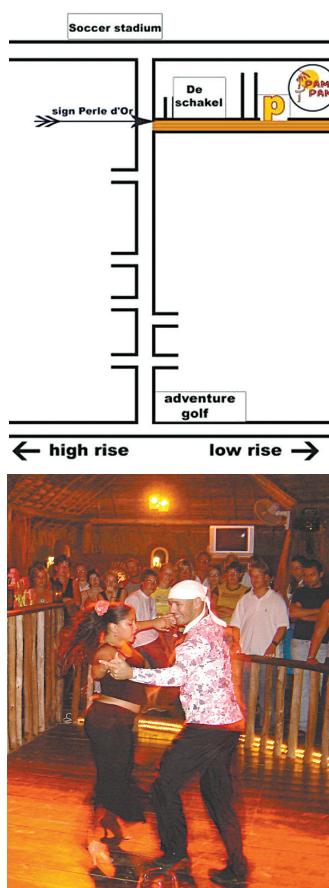


Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Arubian florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance. When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone; 5877710 or 5932660

In honor of the resort's 50th Anniversary and in honor of more than 50 Years of Island Hospitality

Collection on display At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



PALM BEACH — The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, fondly referred to as La Grande Dame, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. An exposition curated by Checkpoint Color with over 500 restored photographs tells the island's living history over the past 5 decades — the expo is open to the public in

the lower lobby of the resort through Aug 3rd. The show documents the island's journey, sailing into the past to cruise along decades of dedication, hard work and achievements of those who believed in the force of the island's hospitality and the richness of its history, culture and perfect beaches.

The pictures on display depict the 1935 KLM's snip aircraft landing at the Dakota terminal bringing in visitors, and the arrival of the Grace Line cruise ship in 1957, which became the first of many ships to drop anchor in the Oranjestad harbor.

It outlines what started as a promise of a bright future and turned into a solid industry.



Inaugurated by the island's acting-governor Mrs. Ella Yarzagary, the Minister of Tourism & Transportation Edison Briesen and the Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, the show focuses on the evolution of the Aruba tourist product.

Pictured here a rare collection of mini soaps on display

courtesy of Shereen de Cuba. Shereen started collecting in the 70s and her mini soaps from hotels, airlines and cruise ships include an original Aruba Caribbean soap bar, also some from the Sheraton, Americana, Air Aruba and Stauffer, names of historic value since the companies no longer exist here. □

**Don't miss our
Plentiful Paella!**

*A dinner
under the
Caribbean sky!*

Las Ramblas
Tapas & Charcoal Grill

The menu features authentic Spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Reservation recommended

For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154



Visit us at our
NEW location on
La Cabana's Boardwalk



Help Radisson Help Aruba Scholarship Foundation

PALM BEACH — This month Radisson Resort, Casino and Spa celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Aruba Caribbean Hotel and the formal beginning of Aruban tourism. As part of its celebration Radisson will hold a gala dinner dance on August 1 to raise funds for Aruba Scholarship Foundation. As President of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation I am grateful for Radisson's generous gesture. Their contribution will help dreams come true for several students. Radisson counts on

the participation of the resident and visiting community.

With a donation of \$250 a couple can experience an unforgettable evening with topnotch entertainment, music and delicious food. At the same time they'll have the satisfaction of having helped some needy and deserving Aruban students. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet contact me at clydeharms@setarnet.aw or the front desk at the Radisson. On behalf of our students in need, thanks! □



**“Early Bird: daily 5-7pm
3-course dinner
for \$29.75 per person”**

Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.



The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

The best salad bar can be found in Texas

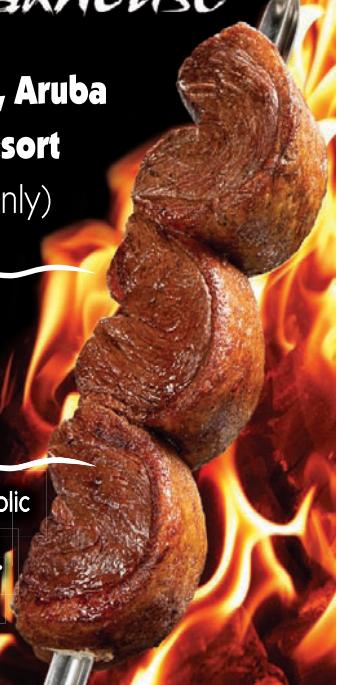


J.E. Irausquin Blvd. • Palm Beach, Aruba
Across from the Playa Linda Resort
297.586.4686 (Serving Dinner Only)

Redeem this ad for
15% OFF*
Valid up to 6 people

*NOT VALID for desserts, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, salad only, children's dinner prices, and split checks. Tax and gratuity not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discounts. Limit one certificate per table.

For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com



PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Mick Miller bring “The Light Fantastic” to Aruba

Pos Chiquito Fishing Boats



ORANJESTAD - If you were to talk with him about photography you should be prepared to spend some time with him, as the conversation could go on for hours. When asked his thoughts about photography as an art form Miller began by explaining a few of the differences between traditional photography, photo illustration and painting.

“With the advent of computers and Photoshop, anyone can take a picture, do some manipulations and add some special effects with the click of the mouse and instantly have a piece of art. That is basically photo illustration and there are people that are very talented at it and produce wonderful, creative pieces of art. I work along the lines of traditional photography where the initial image starts in the camera.”

Miller went on to elaborate, “In photo illustration, as in painting, the image is created by addition. The artist can add anything they desire to the image. Objects, colors; they are only limited by their creative imagination.”

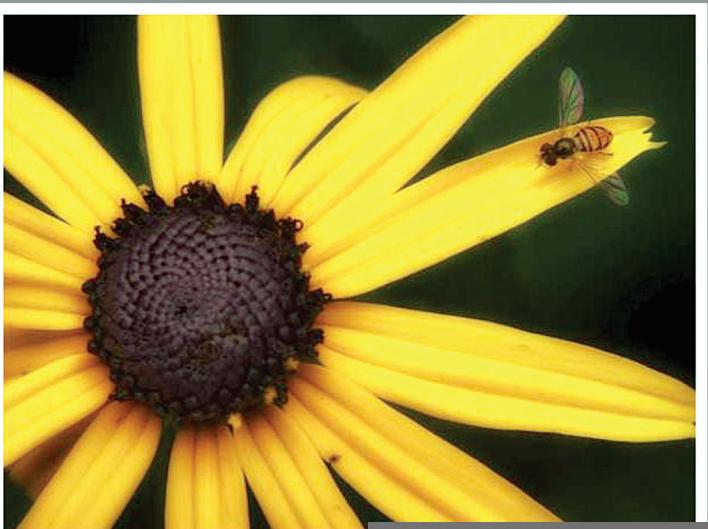
“Since photography is the act of recording light reflected off an object I have to work around many variables and limitations. Often I will see something

I do not want in the final image.”

Black & white is his first passion but you will find his color work as equally inspiring. His photographic subjects of interest are landscapes, architecture, floral studies and on occasion, objects and scenes that one might describe as macabre or bizarre.

“Although I now work with a digital camera and

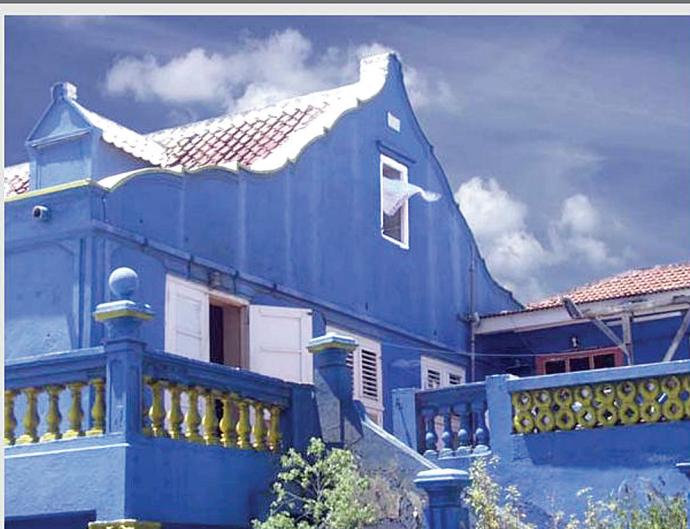
Blackeyed Susan



of interest but it will be the wrong time of the day or even the wrong time of the year. This is especially true with landscapes, in which the only control I have is my position, choice of lens, filters and the settings on the camera. For a landscape I may have to return to the scene many times before I think that everything is right. The angle and quality of the light, the clouds in the sky - it's all taken into consideration before I make the exposure.”

He continued, “Whereas painting and photo illustration is additive, my work is subtractive. I view the scene and might notice something that I do not want in the image. That necessitates moving the camera to take the object out of the picture. I'll keep repositioning myself until I have removed anything that

Curtain in the Wind



computer” Miller said, “I maintain my craft utilizing the tools and techniques of film photography. Filters are used on the camera to create the original images rather than applying them later with a computer program. The computer serves as my chemical-free darkroom and is employed for traditional darkroom techniques such as dodging and burning, increasing image latitude or toning.”

“Photography as an art form has a quality that by its very nature makes it different from say a painting or a sculpture in that it is reproducible. In photography the original image is the negative or as is the case these days, the digital file, and the print of the image is the end product. The great American photographer Ansel Adams once observed, “The negative is comparable to the composer's score and the print to its performance. Each performance differs in subtle way” An original musical composition can be performed innumerable times and even have many different arrangements (There are over 2,000 recorded versions of “Louie Louie”). Likewise the photographer's negative can be reproduced innumerable times and even have many

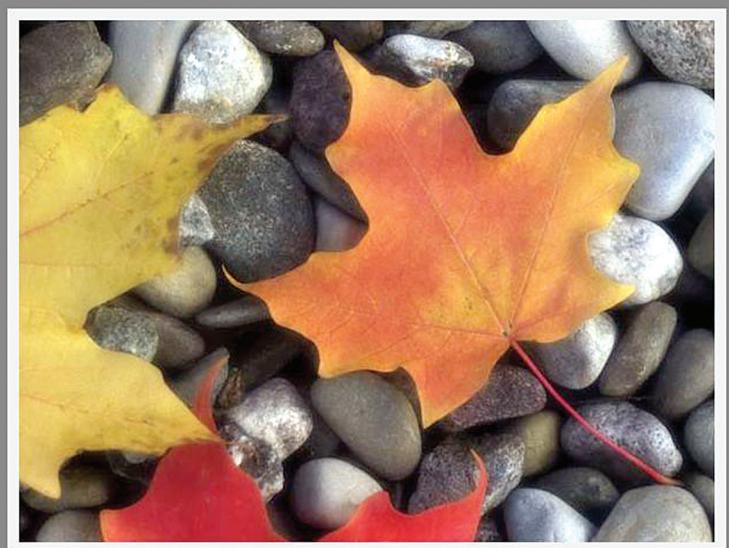
different variations. The print variable could be something as simple as the size. It could be as subtle as using a different substrate such as canvas or a paper that is warmer or cooler or with a different texture or finish.”

Visiting Aruba for the first time in 1997, Miller fell in love with the island and its people. After many visits he decided to move and became a full time resident in the summer of 2004, eager to leave the hustle and bustle of New Jersey and to live a more idyllic lifestyle. Since arriving in his new home he has been in several group exhibitions, had a joint show at the Toyota Art Gallery 168 with fellow New Jersey expatriate and painter, Joseph Miklojciak and taught classes at the International School of Aruba.

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Maple Leaf on River Stone



Former 10 Most Wanted Fugitive Michael Jason Registe returns to Columbus

Families of victims on hand to watch as man charged in slayings is brought back

Michael Jason Registe, accused of a July 2007 double homicide and once one of the FBI's 10 Most Wanted Fugitives, is back in Columbus.

An airplane carrying Registe, 26, touched down at the Columbus Metropolitan Airport at 5:34 p.m. Thursday — two years and three days after the deaths of Randy Newton Jr., 21, and Bryan Kilgore, 20.

Registe is accused of the execution-style slayings of the two Hardaway High School graduates. Authorities say Registe fled the country after their deaths, and he had been listed as one of the FBI's 10 most wanted. He was captured on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten on Aug. 27, 2008.

St. Maarten is part of the Netherlands Antilles.

"We are just happy that Registe is finally being brought back to the U.S.," Kilgore's mother, Jan Taylor, wrote in an e-mail. "He will face a jury of his peers and justice will be served. None of this brings Bryan and Randy back to us, but it is a type of closure for the families."

Handcuffed with his hands at his hips, wearing tan pants, tan and white shirts and red and white sneakers, Registe looked left and right as he stepped off the plane, then stared straight ahead as two FBI agents and a Columbus police officer led him to a convoy. The vehicles drove away from the airport, and Registe was booked inside the Muscogee County Jail by

7 p.m.

Authorities left for St. Maarten on Thursday, picked up Registe and returned to Columbus that day. The extradition was done without incident, said Jaclyn Zappacosta, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Atlanta division.

Authorities announced Wednesday that Registe, who'd fought extradition since his capture, would be returned to Columbus. On Wednesday, Registe's St. Maarten attorney, Remco Stomp, said his client still had three appeals pending

in various courts.

Zappacosta said Registe had exercised all his appeals.

"Today is one of the final steps in bringing closure to the families of Bryan Kilgore and Randy Newton Jr.," Zappacosta said.

Columbus Police Chief Ricky Boren agreed. "It's been long. It's been complicated, but it's come to its conclusion today," he said.

About 20 members of Kilgore's and Newton's families were present for Registe's return. The FBI didn't allow any

contact with them.

Boren said that because Registe already has been indicted, his case will proceed to an arraignment. From there, it will be put on a trial docket. An arraignment for Registe hasn't yet been scheduled.

Before Registe was allowed to be extradited, the Dutch government required that the death penalty be taken off the table as a sentencing option if Registe is convicted. The only sentence he could then receive on a murder conviction is life in prison. □



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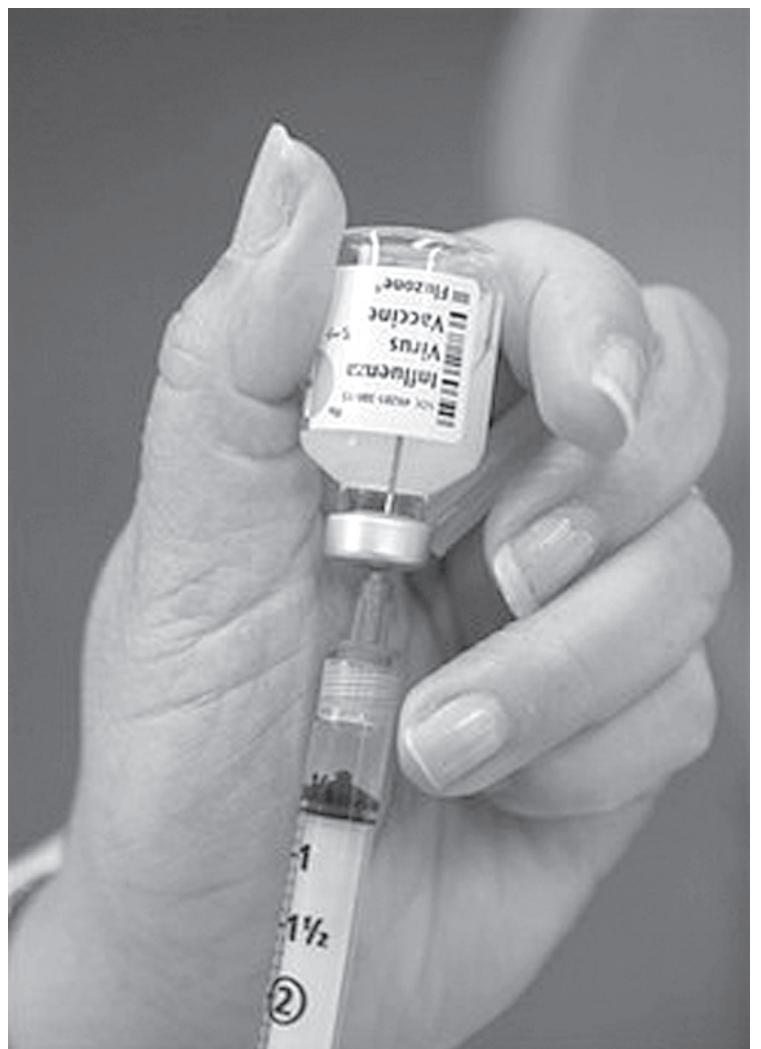


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Swine flu could strike up to 40 percent in 2 years



FILE - This Oct. 5, 2007 file photo shows a nurse filling a syringe with a flu vaccination at a CVS pharmacy in the Brooklyn Borough of New York. U.S. health officials say swine flu could strike up to 40 percent of Americans over the next two years and as many as several hundred thousand could die if a vaccine campaign and other measures aren't successful. Those estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mean about twice the number of people who usually get sick in a normal flu season would be struck by swine flu. Officials said those projections would drop if a new vaccine is ready and widely available, as U.S. officials expect.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — U.S. health officials say swine flu could strike up to 40 percent of Americans over the next two years and as many as several hundred thousand could die if a vaccine campaign and other measures aren't successful. Those estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mean about twice the number of people who usually get sick in a normal flu season would be struck by swine flu. Officials said those projections would drop if a new vaccine is ready and widely available, as U.S. officials expect.

The U.S. may have as many as 160 million doses of swine flu vaccine available sometime in October, and U.S. tests of the new vaccine are to start shortly, federal officials said

this week.

The infection estimates are based on a flu pandemic from 1957, which killed nearly 70,000 in the United States but was not as severe as the infamous Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19. But influenza is notoriously hard to predict. The number of deaths and illnesses would drop if the pandemic peters out or if efforts to slow its spread are successful, said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner.

A CDC official said the agency came up with the estimate last month, but it was first disclosed in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Hopefully, mitigation efforts will have a big impact on future cases," Skinner said.

In a normal flu season, about 36,000 people die from flu and its complications, according to American Medical Association

estimates. Because so many more people are expected to catch the new flu, the number of deaths over two years could range from 90,000 to several hundred thousand, the CDC calculated. Again, that is if a new vaccine and other efforts fail.

The World Health Organization says as many as 2 billion people could become infected over the next two years — nearly one-third of the world population. The estimates look at potential impacts over a two-year period because past flu pandemics have occurred in waves over more than one year.

WHO officials believe the world is in the early phase of the new pandemic.

First identified in April, swine flu has likely infected more than 1 million Americans, the CDC believes, with many of those suffering mild cases never reported. There have been 302 deaths and nearly 44,000 reported cases, according to numbers released Friday morning.

Because the swine flu virus is new, most people haven't developed an immunity against it. So far, most of those who have died from it in the United States have had other health problems, such as asthma.

The virus has caused an unusual number of serious illnesses in teens and young adults; seasonal flu usually is toughest on the elderly and very young children.

New swine flu illness have erupted through the summer, which is also unusual, though cases were less widespread this month. Officials fear an explosion of cases in the fall, when children return to school and the weather turns cold, making the virus easier to spread. □



Agent Orange linked to heart disease, Parkinson's

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Agent Orange, used by U.S. forces to strip Vietnamese and Cambodian jungles during the Vietnam War, may raise the risk of heart disease and Parkinson's disease, U.S. health advisers said on Friday. But the evidence is only limited and far from definitive, the Institute of Medicine panel said.

"The report strongly recommends that studies examining the relationship between Parkinson's incidence and exposures in the veteran population be performed," the institute, an independent academy that guides federal policy, said in a statement.

The findings add to a growing list of conditions that could be linked to the defoliants, including leukemia, prostate cancer, type II diabetes and birth defects in the children of the veterans exposed.

The herbicides, nicknamed "Agent Orange" from the orange stripe on the barrels in which they were stored, include chemicals such as 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid.

Between 1962 and 1971, an estimated 20 million gallons (75 million liters) of these chemicals were used to strip Vietnam's thick forests to make bombing easier.

Veterans exposed to the chemicals have complained for years about a variety of health problems, and in the late 1970s the government started to investigate them systematically. Each finding brings veterans one step closer to getting government-paid medical services for these conditions.

In March, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand the dismissal of lawsuits by Vietnamese nationals and U.S. veterans against Dow Chemical Co, Monsanto Co and other chemical makers over the use of Agent Orange.

In 1984, seven chemical companies, including Dow and Monsanto, agreed to a \$180 million settlement with veterans. □

Forteo Approved for Drug-Related Osteoporosis

Eli Lilly's Forteo (teriparatide injection) has received expanded approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat osteoporosis associated with long-term use of glucocorticoid medication, the company said Thursday.

Glucocorticoid therapy is commonly prescribed for inflammatory conditions including rheumatoid arthritis and obstructive lung disease. These drugs are among the most common causes of secondary osteoporosis, which increases users' risk of bone fracture, Lilly said in a news release.

As many as three of every 100 adults over age 50 use this type of medication, Lilly said, and of those, about half will eventually have an osteoporotic bone fracture.

In clinical testing among patients with glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis, Forteo increased bone mineral density after 18 months of use by an average of 7.2 percent at the spine, 3.6 percent at the hip, and 3.7 percent at the neck, the company said.

The drug should never be used by children and young adults whose bones may still be growing. And in rare cases, users have developed a form of bone cancer called osteosarcoma. It's not known if the drug increased their risk, Lilly said. □

First defense against swine flu - seasonal vaccine

Snoozing May Help Women Shed Baby Weight

New moms who can't zip up their pre-pregnancy jeans might not be catching enough zzzs.

Getting a good night's sleep, in fact, may be just as important as diet and exercise for shedding baby weight.

One study of new mothers found that those who slept five or fewer hours a day six months after giving birth were three times as likely to hold onto those extra pounds as were women who got seven or more hours of sleep.

Short sleep duration "stood out as an independent risk factor" for weight retention, said Erica P. Gunderson, a research scientist and epidemiologist at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, Calif., who worked on the study.

For many women, postpartum weight retention is a serious issue because it can lead to long-term weight gain. Some studies show that up to 20 percent of women retain at least 11 pounds at six to 18 months after giving birth, Finnish researchers reported.

Lifestyle factors that lead to postpartum weight retention -- including a woman's diet, physical activity and sleep patterns -- have not been well studied, researchers report. But as every bleary-eyed new mother knows, slumber is frequently disrupted or cut short in the first year after a baby's birth.

"Sleep deprivation can cause changes in the levels of hormones involved in appetite regulation," explained Dr. Sirimon Reutrakul, a clinical associate in medicine at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

"Keep in mind, though, that there are multiple factors involved in causing postpartum women to sleep less," she said. "These include just having a newborn, having other small children at home, possible postpartum depression, illness of the newborns, if any, work, etcetera," she said.

In Gunderson's study, the sleep and weight retention patterns of 940 Massachusetts women were analyzed. A year after giving birth, 124 of the women had retained 11 or more of the pounds they had put on during their pregnancy.

Short sleep duration was associated with a threefold higher risk of substantial weight retention, when compared with women who got seven hours of sleep. How long a woman breast-fed, however, was not a significant factor.

Dr. Truls Ostbye, a professor and vice chairman of research in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Duke University Medical Center, is currently leading a study designed to promote weight loss in overweight women after childbirth. Preliminary data from that study show that "women who sleep less at six weeks lose less weight from six weeks to 12 months," Ostbye said.

But the relationship between sleep and weight loss isn't that simple. After adjusting for the fact that heavier women lose less weight and sleep less, "the effect of sleep on weight loss nearly goes away," he said.

"The relationship between obesity and sleep is there," he added, "but it is as likely that less sleep is a result of obesity as the other way around."

Advising women to get more sleep may not get to the root of their sleep-deprivation problem, Reutrakul said, "although stressing the importance of a good night's sleep is a good idea." □

By Maggie Fox,

Health and Science Editor

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

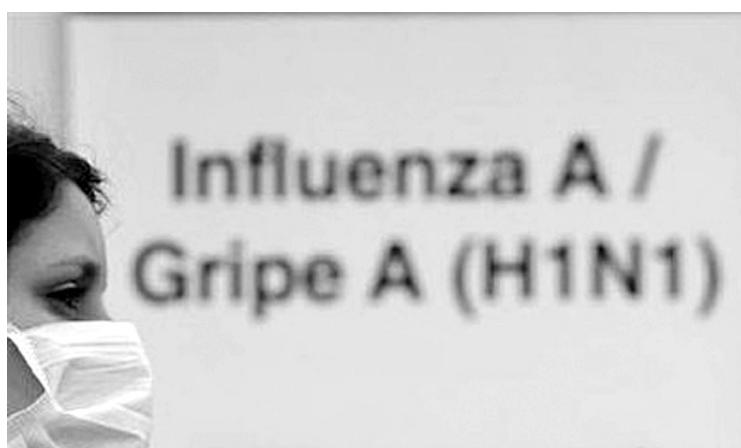
— U.S. health officials strengthened their recommendations for seasonal flu vaccines on Friday, saying all children aged 6 months to 18 years should be immunized -- especially because of the H1N1 flu pandemic.

The seasonal vaccine provides little or no protection against H1N1 swine flu, but immunization will help prevent people from being infected with both at once and can help minimize the effects of the pandemic on schools, workplaces and the economy in general, health experts say.

"Vaccination against seasonal influenza should begin as soon as vaccine is available and continue throughout the influenza season," Dr. Anne Schuchat of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters in a telephone briefing.

"At this point, 83 percent of the population is recommended to get an annual flu vaccine," she said. "Unfortunately, only about 40 percent of the U.S. population received the flu vaccine last year."

Last year the CDC "encouraged" all children to be vaccinated. Now it "recommends" this -- advice that does not have the force of law but that can affect what states and insurers do.



A person with a suspected case of H1N1 influenza virus waits outside Miguel Couto hospital in Rio de Janeiro July 23, 2009.

REUTERS/Sergio Moraes

On Thursday U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials said they would work with companies and the National Institutes of Health to quickly test experimental

H1N1 vaccines, with the aim of getting a vaccination plan underway as soon as possible.

Schuchat said H1N1 was still circulating.

"We are continuing to see transmission here in the United States in places like summer camps, some military academies and similar settings where people from different parts of the country come together," she said.

"I think this is very unusual to have this much transmission of influenza during the (summer) and I think it's a testament to how susceptible people are to this virus."

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

The CDC said 43,771 cases of H1N1 influenza had been officially confirmed, with 302 deaths.

"But ... that's really just the tip of the iceberg," Schuchat said. "We believe there have been well over 1 million cases of the new H1N1 virus so far in the United States."

She said the CDC would no longer report cases and was working on better ways to estimate how many people had been infected.

The pandemic spread globally in less than two months and has infected

people in 160 countries, killing 800 people, the World Health Organization said. The WHO numbers do not include the latest CDC count.

Schuchat said there is no indication the virus is any worse in one country than another.

"There are differences in reporting. In some places, we're hearing about only the severe cases. In other places, we're hearing about illness that's in the community," she said.

She declined to call the pandemic "mild" and noted that people had died and many others had spent weeks in hospitals, sometimes on ventilators. She said the CDC was also watching for more cases of seizures. The agency reported on Thursday on four children who suffered seizures from H1N1 infection but who recovered.

Schuchat advised against summer camps offering the antiviral drug oseltamivir -- Roche AG and Gilead Sciences Inc's Tamiflu -- to prevent infection among children.

"At this point we're strongly recommending them for treatment rather than for prevention," she said.

To prevent flu, the drugs should be reserved for people at high risk of complications who have been in close contact with a known case, she said. □

Aruba TODAY

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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Stocks edge mostly higher; Microsoft drags Nasdaq



In this photo made Wednesday, July 22, 2009, a Hewlett Packard laptop running Microsoft Windows XP is seen on display at Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif. Microsoft Corp. shares were down early Friday, July 24, after the software maker reported its first fiscal year with a sales decline since 1986.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors are holding on to the stock market's rally.

Most stocks rose Friday, extending a two-week jump that has added 11 percent to the stock market's major indicators.

Disappointing results from Microsoft Corp. and Amazon.com Inc. hit technology shares, however, and dragged the Nasdaq composite index lower.

The reports underscore the prevailing theme of earnings season thus far: Companies have been able to report better-than-expected earnings in large part because of aggressive cost-cutting measures, not stronger sales. Revenue at some companies is still sagging as consumers forgo spending to shore up their savings.

Still, investors have taken the improved results as confirmation that the economy is healing and that a turnaround is possible by the end of the year.

"We are of the opinion that it may not be a straight line, but things are going to continue to get better," said Keith Walter, portfolio manager at Artio Global Equity Fund.

Investors are betting on an improvement. On Thursday, news that existing home sales rose in June for the third

straight month helped pushed the Dow over 9,000 for the first time since January.

In just nine days, the Dow and the S&P 500 index have climbed 11 percent, reigniting a rally that carried the market 40 percent higher this spring. Stocks gave up some of those gains last month as still-growing unemployment and weak consumer confidence fed doubts about the economy's recovery.

Despite the gains, analysts warn that investors still have a number of obstacles to contend with, including earnings reports from retailers that will provide more insight into the financial health of the consumer.

"It's healthy that there is fear and skepticism in the marketplace," said Jeffrey Frankel, president of Stuart Frankel & Co.

"The more people are concerned and the more people are careful, the healthier the market will be. What gets us in trouble is when there is no fear."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow rose 23.95, or 0.3 percent, to 9,093.24, while the S&P 500 index rose 2.97, or 0.3 percent, to 979.26. The Nasdaq fell 7.64, or 0.4 percent, to 1,965.96, breaking a 12-day winning streak.

The market's climb in the past two weeks reflects a mix of forces. Some analysts link

part of the buying to short-covering, where investors have to buy stock after having earlier sold borrowed shares in a bet that the market would fall. That rush to cover ill-timed bets can hasten the market's climb.

It's not just traders making all the moves. Everyday investors also are withdrawing money from some safe corners of the market where the returns are low. In the week ended Tuesday, money market mutual fund investors pulled \$3.99 billion from taxable funds, according to iMoneyNet Inc. This has been flowing into stock and bond funds.

Analysts also say money managers are afraid of missing out on a continued rally.

"There is so much cash still on the sidelines," said David Darst, chief investment strategist at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

"People missed it and they're beginning to worry that the train isn't going to come back for them," he said, referring to the rally.

Bond prices rose, pushing yields slightly lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.66 percent from 3.67 percent late Thursday.

Analysts say a break in the market's advance is warranted and disappointing earnings reports gave investors reason to lock in some of the recent gains.

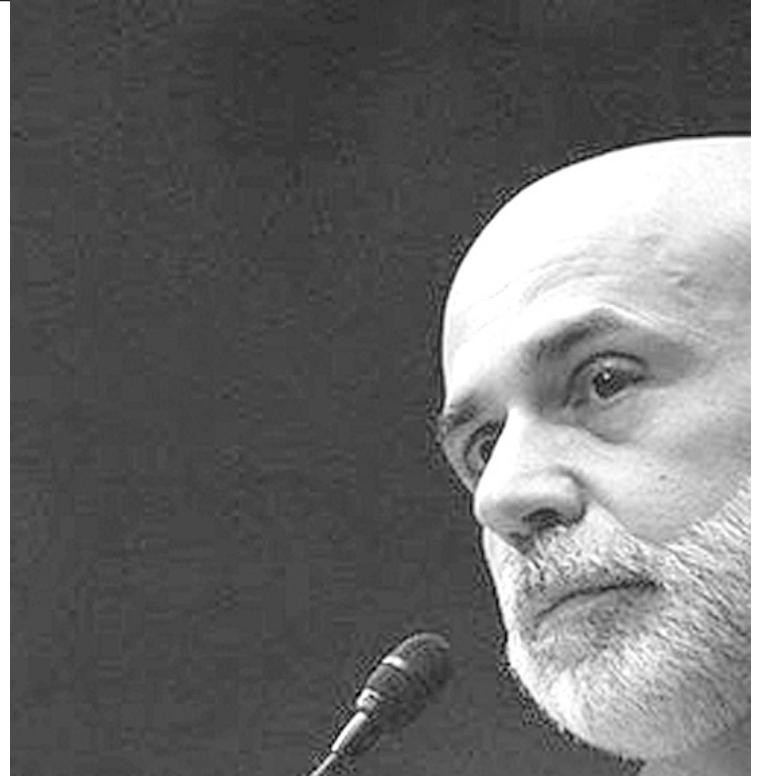
Microsoft fell \$2.11 to \$23.45, while Amazon.com dropped \$7.38 to \$86.49.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Oil rose 89 cents to settle at \$68.05 a barrel.

About two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 1 billion shares, compared with 1.4 billion traded Thursday. Light volume can skew the market's moves.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 2.61, or 0.5 percent, to 548.46. □



US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke, seen here on July 22, 2009, told lawmakers Friday the central bank should remain in charge of consumer financial protection, opposing an administration proposal for a new regulator.

(AFP/File/Karen Bleier)

Bernanke, Geithner clash on consumer protection

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke told lawmakers Friday the central bank should remain in charge of consumer financial protection, opposing an administration proposal for a new regulator.

Bernanke's comments clashed with those of Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who called for support of a new "Consumer Financial Protection Agency" proposed by the administration of President Barack Obama.

Bernanke argued in a hearing of the House Financial Services Committee that it was "important to point out some of the benefits that would be lost through this change."

He said the Fed is the appropriate regulator and must look at issues of consumer protection as well as systemic risk when supervising financial institutions.

"Both the substance of consumer protection rules and their enforcement are complementary to prudential supervision," he said.

"Poorly designed financial products and misaligned incentives can at once harm consumers and undermine financial institutions."

He said the Federal Reserve "has adopted strong consumer protection measures in the mortgage and credit card areas" but is also careful about "tailoring rules that prevent abuses while not impeding the availability of sensible extensions of credit." Geithner insisted in the same hearing however that "the case for the Consumer Financial Protection Agency is clear."

He said that many non-bank financial firms such as mortgage brokers and large independent mortgage companies "currently operate under no federal supervision."

Thus, the creation of a new consumer protection agency "would fix this problem and ensure a level playing field by extending the reach of federal oversight to all financial firms, no matter whether they are banks or non-banks."

He also said that while bank regulators' "primary focus is the safety and soundness of the institutions" rather than the effect on consumers.

"That is why the CFPB would have as its sole mission examining how a product or practice affects consumers," Geithner told the panel. □

Author E. Lynn Harris dies at age 54



FILE - In this July 7, 2008 file photo, author E. Lynn Harris poses in the living room of his home in Atlanta. Harris, 54, died Thursday, July 23, 2009, after being stricken while at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., and said a cause of death had not yet been determined, according to his publicist Laura Gilmore.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore, file)

By JOSH L. DICKEY,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — E. Lynn Harris, a pioneer of gay black fiction and a literary entrepreneur who rose from self-publishing to best-selling status, has died, his publicist said Friday. He was 54.

Publicist Laura Gilmore said Harris died Thursday night after being stricken at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, and a cause of death had not been determined. She said Harris, who lived in Atlanta, fell ill on a train to Los Angeles a few days ago and blacked out for a few minutes, but seemed fine after that.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said only that a man matching Harris' name and date of birth had died Thursday night at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, which was confirmed by hospital spokeswoman Simi Singer. Gilmore said an autopsy would be performed Monday or Tuesday.

An improbable and inspirational success story, Harris worked for a decade as an IBM executive before taking up writing, selling the novel "Invisible Life" from his car as he visited salons and beauty parlors around Atlanta. He had unprecedented success for an openly gay black author and his strength as a romance writer led some to call him the "male Terry McMillan." He went on to mainstream success with works such as the

novel "Love of My Own" and the memoir "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted."

His writing fell into several genres, including gay and lesbian fiction, African American fiction and urban fiction. But he found success in showing readers a new side of African American life: the secret world of professional, bisexual black men living as heterosexuals.

"He was a pioneering voice within the black LGBT community but also resonated with mainstream communities, regardless of race and sexual orientation," said Herndon Davis, a gay advocate and a diversity media consultant in Los Angeles. "Harris painted with eloquent prose and revealing accuracy the lives of African American men and the many complicated struggles they faced reconciling their sexuality and spirituality while rising above societal taboos within the black community."

Harris published 11 novels, 10 of which were on The New York Times best-seller list. There are over 4 million copies of his books in print, according to his publisher, Doubleday.

"We at Doubleday are deeply shocked and saddened to learn of E. Lynn Harris' death at too young an age," said Doubleday spokeswoman Alison Rich, his longtime publicist. "His pioneering novels and powerful memoir about the black gay

experience touched and inspired millions of lives, and he was a gifted storyteller whose books brought delight and encouragement to readers everywhere."

In an interview last year, Harris recalled the first time he realized he was poor, when as a young boy his family was invited to the housewarming of a well-to-do family in his hometown of Fayetteville, Ark. Fresh from an afternoon of playing outside, he tried desperately to tuck his bare, dusty feet underneath the sofa after another guest remarked on his appearance.

"I didn't grow up in the kind of environment that my characters grew up in, or the kind of environment that I live in now," he said. "It was one of the things that I always aspired to."

His 1994 debut, "Invisible Life," was a coming-of-age story that dealt with the then-taboo topic.

"If you were African American and you were gay, you kept your mouth shut and you went on and did what everybody else did," he said. "You had girlfriends, you lived a life that your parents had dreamed for you."

Harris was not living as an openly gay man when "Invisible Life" was published, and could not acknowledge the parallels between himself and the book.

"People would often ask, 'Is this book about you?' I didn't want to talk about that," he said. "I wasn't comfortable talking about it. I would say that this is a work of fiction." Harris said that the courage readers got from the book empowered him to be honest about himself. He continued to tell stories dealing with similar issues, to tell black middle class readers about people they knew, but who were living secret lives.

For years, he was alone in exposing the "down low," but the phenomenon exploded into mainstream culture in 2004, a decade after "Invisible Life." That year, J.L. King's "On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of 'Straight' Black

Men Who Sleep With Men" hit bookstores and the author appeared on Oprah Winfrey's TV show.

His 10th novel, "Just Too Good to Be True," focused for the first time on a straight relationship, telling the story of a 21-year-old football star, his mother, and his cheerleader love interest. Harris taught writing classes at his alma mater, the University of Arkansas, and leaned on his students there to gather material for the book. The last book Harris published, "Basketball Jones," focused on a hidden relationship between a successful business professional in New Orleans

and an NBA star. Janis F. Kearney met Harris when the two were among a handful of black journalism students at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The two became fast friends and their relationship deepened as they both evolved into authors. Kearney, who now lives in Little Rock, Ark., recalled Harris' huge heart. "I've seen him help so many people," Kearney said. "He was very open, very giving, very caring, someone you felt so fortunate to have in your life. He's just one of those people I'll never stop missing." □



Happy 40th Birthday, Jennifer Lopez!

Cristina Gibson

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Jennifer Lopez turns 40 years young today, but she kicked off the celebration last night.

The actress has been busy filming *The Back-Up Plan* in the Big Apple and took some time out to party with the crew and hubby Marc Anthony.

While she's definitely toned down her divalicious side since becoming a mom to twins Max and Emme, J.Lo.'s huge chocolate cake still paid tribute to...herself, what else?

It featured a big photo of herself and the message: "Jennifer... thanks for being our Plan A! You're the best. And...happy birthday!"

The birthday girl also got kisses from her hubby and toasted with champagne.

Despite turning the dreaded 4-0, a milestone that has most women pretending it doesn't exist, Jenny was beaming throughout the bash.

Do you miss her over-the-top J.Lo days or do you like the new softer, domesticated side of Jennifer?

Either way, happy birthday! □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on



Michael Jackson waves to supporters outside the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, June 13, 2005.

REUTERS/Gene Blevins

tabloid trumpeted a headline that he fathered a secret love-child.

In one by-product of the "Thriller" singer's death, a Chicago company said on Friday it had obtained some of the hair Jackson burned while filming a 1984 Pepsi commercial and planned to create a limited edition of diamonds from it.

"Absolutely this is for real," said Dean VandenBiesen, founder of LifeGem, which has a patent on a process that

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Jackson's hair made into diamonds -- for real

extracts carbon from hair, turns it into crystals and then into high-quality laboratory diamonds.

VandenBiesen told Reuters he thought the company could make about 10 diamonds. No sale price has been set but VandenBiesen said LifeGem created three diamonds from locks of Beethoven's hair in 2007, and sold one of them for around \$200,000.

Separately, the August 6 issue of Rolling Stone magazine reported that not only was the left arm of Jackson's dead body "scored with needle marks" -- claims that have arisen before -- but he wore an artificial nose that was missing when he was taken to the Los Angeles county morgue.

"The prosthesis that he normally attached to his damaged nose was missing, revealing bits of cartilage surrounding a small dark hole," the magazine said in an

unsourced report.

While that report could not be confirmed, Los Angeles coroner's officials did say earlier this week they were probing security breaches in their offices.

The coroner's office is expected to release an official cause of death next week which could shed light on some of the reports, including Jackson's possible use of powerful drugs.

And even as custody of Jackson's three children is set to be decided in court on August 3, The Sun newspaper speculated the singer may have had a love-child raised in Norway.

Omer Bhatti, 25, sparked interest when he was spotted sitting with the singer's immediate family at Jackson's public memorial earlier this month. Bhatti reportedly spent time with Jackson at his Neverland Valley Ranch in

the 1990s and was known as "Little Michael".

But another of Jackson's former protégés, singer Ricky Harlow, told celebrity website People.com on Friday that although they were close he doubted Bhatti was Jackson's son.

"They had a father-and-son type of connection," Harlow, 26, told People, "but I never thought he (Jackson) was his biological father."

In Jackson's 2002 will, the singer listed only three children now living: Prince Michael Jackson, Jr, Paris Michael Kathering Jackson and Prince Michael Joseph Jackson II. □





President Barack Obama, seated center, reacts after signing a proclamation celebrating the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with, left-right: Rep. James Langevin, D-RI, Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wisc., unidentified and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in the East Room at the White House in Washington Friday, July 24, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama rushes to quell racial uproar he helped fire

NANCY BENAC

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Knocked off stride by a racial uproar he helped stoke, President Barack Obama hastened Friday to try and tamp down the flames. Obama, who had said police "acted stupidly" in arresting black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., declared the white arresting officer was a good man and invited him and the professor to the White House for a beer.

Obama conceded his words had been ill-chosen, but he stopped short of a public apology. He personally telephoned both Gates and Cambridge, Massachusetts, Sgt. James Crowley, hoping to end the rancorous back-and-forth over what had transpired and what Obama had said about it.

Trying to lighten the situation, he even commiserated with Crowley about reporters on his lawn.

Continued on Next Page

Some Guantanamo detainees may come to U.S. jails

PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's top lawyer said Friday that the Obama administration has not abandoned the possibility of transferring some prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay detention center to a prison in the United States despite strong congressional

concerns.

Defense Department general counsel Jeh Charles Johnson told the House Armed Services Committee that some suspected terrorists might be transferred to the U.S. for prosecution and others sent to a facility inside the U.S. for long-term incarceration. Administration officials had raised those possible moves

before, but Congress in June passed a law that would allow detainees held at the Navy-run prison in Cuba to be transferred to the U.S. for prosecution only after lawmakers have had two months to read a White House report on how it plans to shut the facility and disperse the inmates.

Continued on Page B3

150 dogs found dead in freezers at Mi. home



Law enforcement officials search a home in Dearborn, Mich., Thursday, July 23, 2009. Authorities said a man kept more than 90 dogs, mostly Chihuahuas, locked inside the home.

Associated Press

DAVID RUNK

Associated Press Writer

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP) — Police on Friday found about 150 dead dogs packed in freezers in the basement of a house littered with feces and trash where more than 110 live dogs, mostly Chihuahuas, were rescued this week. Dearborn Police Chief Ronald Haddad said the 56-year-old man found Wednesday in the suburban Detroit home with the animals may have been living with an increasing number of dogs for up to three or four years.

Continued on Page B5



Iran president caves in over VP controversy

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad caved into pressure from hardline clerics and the country's supreme leader Friday and allowed the resignation of his top deputy after a week-long standoff. For days, the president had resisted pressure from hard-liners, including a direct order from the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to dismiss his choice for the key post of first vice president, Esfandiar Rahim Mashai, who last year angered conservatives when he made friendly comments toward Israel.

Continued on Page B6



Cambridge police Sgt. James Crowley, far left, listens as a multiracial group of officers and union leaders, including Cambridge Police Patrol Officers Union President Steve Killion, foreground right, hold a news conference in Cambridge, Mass. Friday, July 24, 2009 to show support for Crowley, who was the arresting officer of Harvard Prof. Lewis Gates at his home. At center is Sgt. Leon Lashley, who was with Crowley at the scene of the arrest, said later he supports "100 percent" how Crowley handled the situation.

ILL CHOSEN

Continued from Page B1

Hours earlier, a multiracial group of police officers had stood with Crowley in Massachusetts and said the president should apologize. It was a measure of the nation's keen sensitivities on matters of race that the fallout from a disorderly conduct charge in Massachusetts — and the

remarks of America's first black president about it — had mushroomed to such an extent that he felt compelled to make a surprise appearance in the White House briefing room to try to put the matter to rest. The blowup had dominated national attention just as Obama was trying to marshal public pressure to get Congress to push through health care

overhaul legislation — and as polls showed growing doubts about his performance.

"This has been ratcheting up, and I obviously helped to contribute ratcheting it up," Obama said of the racial controversy. "I want to make clear that in my choice of words, I think I unfortunately gave an impression that I was maligning the Cambridge Police Department and Sgt. Crowley specifically. And I could've calibrated those words differently."

The president did not back down from his contention that police had overreacted by arresting the Harvard professor for disorderly conduct after coming to his home to investigate a possible break-in. He added, though, that he thought Gates, too, had overreacted to the police who questioned him. The charge has been dropped.

Obama stirred up a hornet's nest when he said at a prime-time news conference this week that Cambridge police had "acted stupidly" by arresting Gates, a friend of the president's. Still, Obama



said Friday he didn't regret stepping into the controversy and hoped the matter would end up being a "teachable moment" for the nation.

"The fact that this has garnered so much attention, I think, is testimony to the fact that these are issues that are still very sensitive here in America," Obama said.

Obama wryly took note of the distraction from his legislative efforts.

"I don't know if you've noticed, but nobody's been paying much attention to health care," the president said.

Obama, who has come under intense criticism from police organizations, said he had called Crowley to clear the air, and said the conversation confirmed his belief that the sergeant is an "outstanding police officer and a good man."

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs refused to say whether Obama had apologized to Crowley.

Asked repeatedly about that, Gibbs said: "If the president doesn't want to characterize it in a conversation that he hates having with you all, I'm not going to get ahead of him."

The story had taken on a life of its own, and the White House scrambled to keep up.

Gibbs said just Friday morning that the president had probably said most of what he was going to say, and that the only problem was media "obsession."

Hours later, Obama showed up to try to put the issue to rest. There were signs both that

Obama's statement had helped to ease tensions and that his critics were not about to let that be the end of it: A trio of Massachusetts police organizations issued a statement thanking the president for his "willingness to reconsider his remarks." And a Republican congressman from Michigan, Thaddeus McCotter, said he would introduce a House resolution calling on Obama to apologize to Crowley.

Obama tried to lighten his tone in his public remarks about his phone conversation with Crowley.

He said the police officer "wanted to find out if there was a way of getting the press

off his lawn."

"I informed him that I can't get the press off my lawn," Obama joked.

In his conversation with Gates, aides said, Obama and the professor had spoken about the president's statement to the press and his conversation with Crowley.

The case began on Monday, when word broke that Gates, 58, had been arrested five days earlier at the two-story home he rents from Harvard.

Supporters including Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson called the arrest an outrageous act of racial profiling. Public interest increased when a photograph surfaced of the handcuffed Gates being escorted off his porch amid three officers, two white and one black.

Cambridge police moved to drop the disorderly conduct charge on Tuesday — without apology, but calling the case "regrettable."

That didn't end the national debate: Some said Gates was responsible for his own arrest because of his response to Crowley, while others said Gates was justified to yell at the officer.

Obama's criticism of the police only added fuel to the racial debate.

Meanwhile, the police union and fellow officers, black and white, rallied around Crowley, a decorated officer who in 1993 tried to give lifesaving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to Reggie Lewis, a black Boston Celtics player who collapsed at practice. Lewis could not be revived.

Crowley, 42, had been selected to be a police academy instructor on how to avoid racial profiling.

A multiracial group of officers and union officials stood with Crowley on Friday at a news conference to show support and to ask Obama and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who is black, to apologize for their comments. Patrick had called Gates' arrest "every black man's nightmare."

Obama's take on the situation: "My sense is you've got two good people in a circumstance in which neither of them were able to resolve the incident in a way that it should have been resolved." □

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First openly gay member joins U.S. Air Force board

KRISTEN WYATT

Associated Press Writer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — A Democrat who last year became the first openly gay non-incumbent elected to Congress took his place Friday on the U.S. Air Force Academy's supervisory board.

Rep. Jared Polis was appointed earlier this month to the Academy's Board of Visitors, which meets Friday and Saturday in Colorado Springs. He is thought to be the first openly gay member serving on an oversight board at any service academy.

The boards report to Congress and the Pentagon on how the academies are doing, including recommendations for change.

Polis opposes the military's ban on gay and lesbian servicemembers and has twice proposed, then withdrawn, amendments to undo "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies, which prohibit gays from serving openly in the armed forces. Polis' appointment, made by Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, has veterans on both sides of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" debate wondering if it's a signal change is coming.

"We're all reading the tea leaves here," said Tricia Heller, a Class of '87 Air Force Academy graduate who flew C-9 jets for the Air Force before the leaving the service four years ago and coming out.

"I'm not saying 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is going away. We can't say that. But this

is a good sign," said Heller, now an attorney in Windsor, Colorado. She's one of about 70 members of the Blue Alliance, an alumni group of gay and lesbian Air Force Academy graduates, plus some straight alums who want to end the ban on gays in the military.

Polis says he doesn't plan to push for change through the Board of Visitors but did repeat his opposition to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on gay, lesbian and transgendered servicemembers. Asked about the policy, Polis said he expects Congress will start debating as soon as this fall a repeal of the 1993 ban on gay servicemembers.

"We expect that to end shortly, and I look forward to being a value to the Academy in making the

detainees could be released should they be given their day in court.

Johnson also said the Obama administration has not yet determined where it will hold newly captured al-Qaida or Taliban prisoners for extended detention after Guantanamo Bay's prison closes.

The Bush administration established the jail at Guantanamo shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to hold and interrogate suspected terrorists. It has held about 780 prisoners. About 550 of them have been returned to their home countries or resettled in other places. Roughly another 50 have been approved for transfer to other countries, pending the acceptance of those governments.

The Obama administration on Friday signaled it intends to bring a second Guantanamo Bay detainee to the United States for trial in criminal court. Federal prosecutors told a court Friday they no longer plan to hold Mohammed Jawad, an Afghan, as a wartime prisoner. Jawad is not likely to be transferred soon. For the time being, prosecutors say, he will remain at Guantanamo while an "expedited" criminal investigation is conducted.

So far, the only Guantanamo detainee brought to face trial in a U.S. criminal court is Ahmed Ghailani, a Tanzanian who was sent to New York in June to face charges he helped orchestrate two bomb attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998. □

GUANTANAMO

Continued from Page B1

The law is silent on whether Guantanamo detainees can be held inside the U.S. if they do not have a trial pending.

Johnson also said no prisoners would be released from custody inside the country. Congress has blocked funding for transferring any detainees from Guantanamo Bay into the United States for the 2009 budget year ending Sept. 30. President Barack Obama has ordered Guantanamo facility closed by January 2010.

Both civilian federal jails and military prisons are being considered for potential future incarceration for prisoners facing criminal prosecution, military tribunals, or long-term detention without a trial, Assistant Attorney General David Kris said at the same hearing. More than 50 have been cleared for release and an administration task force is still sorting through the remaining 229 prisoners to determine their fates. The panel has reviewed about half the cases, according to a Justice Department official who asked not to be named because he is not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Government lawyers in both the Obama and Bush administrations say that an unspecified number of detainees should continue to be held without trial. Some of the evidence against them is classified or thin, and the government fears these most dangerous



In this Saturday, April 25, 2009 picture, U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., makes a point after touring a clinic serving low-income and uninsured patients during a news conference at the facility in north Denver. A sign gays may be inching closer to acceptance in the military: the U.S. Air Force Academy is welcoming its first openly gay member of its oversight board. Polis was appointed in July 2009 to the Academy's Board of Visitors, which meets Friday and Saturday in Colorado Springs.

Associated Press

transition," Polis said.

Polis' appointment has sparked a sometimes-fiery debate on military blogs, and even some fellow board members say they're perplexed by his appointment. If he were a student at the Academy, Polis would be kicked out.

"This is not the direction I would choose," said former Rep. Robin Hayes, a Republican who is on the board and supports the military's ban on gay servicemembers. Hayes was careful to point out he would welcome Polis to the

board, but Hayes said the military's ban should stand — especially at the service academies.

"This is certainly a topic of discussion, but to be perfectly frank, I don't think sexual orientation should be criteria for the diversity we're working for" at the academies, Hayes said. Pelosi said in her announcement that the Polis appointment reflects the nation's diversity. An aide said she wouldn't elaborate on that but said Pelosi opposes the military's gay ban. □



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Key lawmakers mull backing of nuclear test ban



In this Wednesday, June 17, 2009 file photo, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. President Barack Obama sought to rally support for his domestic initiatives, while Sen. John McCain called for Americans to support Iranian election protesters. The one-time presidential rivals both cited the spirit of the nation's founders in their Fourth of July radio and Internet addresses.

DESMOND BUTLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A key Republican senator who helped vote down U.S. ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty 10 years ago, said he would now consider supporting it.

Sen. John McCain, the last Republican presidential nominee, told The Associated Press that he still has concerns but could support the treaty, if they are addressed before another vote.

In a separate interview, another important Republican who voted against the treaty in 1999, Sen. Richard Lugar, said he has not yet made up his mind.

President Barack Obama has said that ratifying the treaty is a priority as he tries to reverse the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce the threat that they will be used.

The two Republicans could prove pivotal for Senate ratification. Even if all Democrats and their allies back the treaty, Obama would need the support of at least seven Republicans.

Lugar and McCain are two of the top Republicans on national security and would likely have sway over their colleagues. Lugar is the senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee; McCain, Obama's

former presidential opponent, is the senior Republican on the Armed Services Committee.

McCain has embraced Obama's goal of eliminating all the world's nuclear weapons and said that a global test ban would be a step forward if it were implemented prudently. "The devil is in the details," he said. "If we could get it done, if it is acceptable, then it is a step forward on the path to the president's goal and mine of a nuclear free world."

Lugar, who is regarded as one of Washington's leading actors on arms control issues, said that he favored delaying consideration of a treaty at least until after an international conference in May on strengthening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said he would consider the test ban treaty when it was brought up.

Lugar is currently pressing for the administration to conclude talks with Russia on a follow-on agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires in December.

The Republican senator said he is marshaling party votes to ratify that treaty, which would limit U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals. He said he does not want an acrimonious debate about a test ban treaty to sap support for START or weaken

the U.S. position at the May conference.

"I would postpone consideration," he said about the test ban treaty.

Some analysts, who follow the issue, say that other Republicans will be watching Lugar and particularly McCain.

"John McCain is one of the only Republican senators who is independent-minded enough to break out of the partisan dividing lines on this issue," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association. "He has the gravitas to influence others in the caucus."

When the treaty was submitted for consideration in 1999, both Lugar and McCain expressed concerns about how little time was allowed for debate of a complex issue. They and other opponents also doubted whether the treaty's monitoring system could detect small underground nuclear test and worried that the soundness of

the U.S. nuclear arsenal would come under question if tests could not be conducted.

Ultimately, the Republican-controlled Senate rejected the pact almost entirely along party lines with a 48-in-favor, 51-against vote.

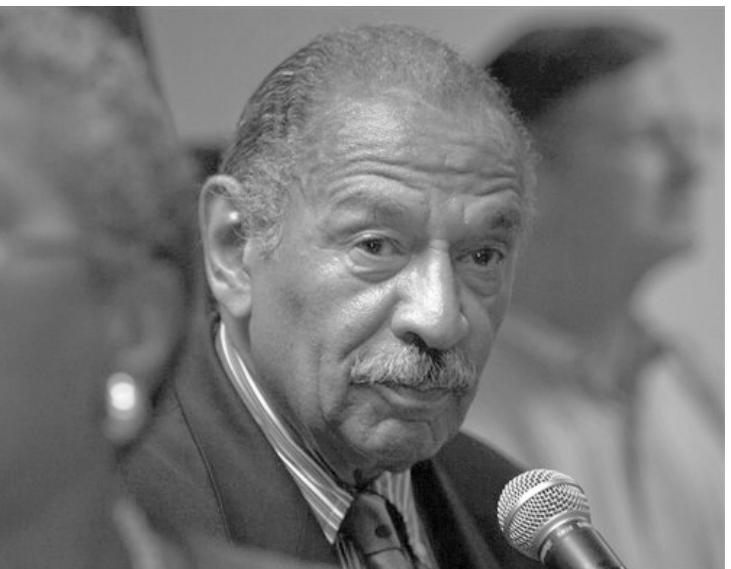
Negotiated in the 1990s, the treaty specified 44 nuclear-capable states — from Algeria to Vietnam — that must give full formal approval before it can take effect, putting the power of international law and the U.N. Security Council behind the ban. All but nine of those have ratified, along with the governing bodies of 113 other nations.

Besides the U.S., the holdouts among the 44 are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.

Democratic Sen. John Kerry, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, said in March that he has begun the process of bringing the treaty back before the Senate. □

Associated Press

Lawmaker wants criminal probe of Bush 'abuses'



In this April 7, 2009 file photo, Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., talks with reporters during a news conference at the Toussaint Louverture airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee on Friday urged Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a special investigator to examine potential abuses by former President George W. Bush's administration.

Rep. John Conyers, a Democrat, said in a speech to the National Press Club that Holder "must appoint a special counsel to review the Bush administration abuses of power and misconduct. A criminal probe — he's got to do that."

Conyers' committee has sought an investigation of

Bush administration moves criticized by Democrats, including its methods of interrogating foreign detainees, use of warrantless wiretaps, alleged retribution against critics, and allegations that officials intentionally misused intelligence.

He said the criminal probe should be accompanied by a "9/11-type panel" to gather facts and make recommendations on preventing the misuse of power. A Justice Department spokeswoman declined comment. Holder is considering whether to appoint a prosecutor to review the Bush administration's methods of interrogating suspected terrorists.

President Barack Obama has expressed reluctance to conduct a probe into alleged Bush-era abuses and resisted an effort by congressional Democrats to establish a "truth commission," saying the U.S. should be "looking forward and not backwards." □

California lawmakers pass plan to balance budget

JUDY LIN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Lawmakers on Friday approved a complex package of spending cuts, local government raids and accounting maneuvers to fill California's gigantic budget deficit, providing hope that the state might begin a slow climb out of a deep financial hole.

The legislative package of 31 bills, with final passage coming in the Assembly after an all-night session, was similar to the deal announced earlier this week by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders from both parties.

But the Assembly rejected two of the most controversial measures, a plan to take about \$1 billion in transportation

150 DOGS

Continued from Page B1

"The house was in complete disarray, very cluttered and, with 100-plus dogs running around in there, very filthy," he said.

A criminal investigation was under way at the two-story brick home, Haddad said. He said the case could be forwarded to prosecutors for possible animal-cruelty charges.

Haddad said 112 live dogs had been removed from the home as of Friday, and police believe about five more may be hiding inside. He declined to release details about the breed of the dead dogs.

The man living in the house was taken to a local hospital for observation. He had no health insurance and a mental impairment that stemmed from rubella as a child, and had lived for years alone in the home after his parents retired to Florida, said lawyer James G. Schmier, who was acting as a family spokesman.

"I think this is a very human story of a guy who had some very severe mental issues," Schmier said.

Neighbors in the past had complained of an odor at the Dearborn home, which had a neatly cut lawn and manicured bushes. But this week was the first time officials got inside,

funding from local governments, and allowing oil drilling off the California coast for the first time in 40 years. That was to have brought in \$100 million this fiscal year. The loss of \$1.1 billion from the budget package means Schwarzenegger will have to use his authority to make even deeper cuts to close the gap. But the Assembly cuts do not appear deal-breakers, with Schwarzenegger saying he would finish up the package next week. He acknowledged that the budget deal will mean teachers are laid off, college students will pay more and many people will suffer, but said lawmakers had few options.

"It's the only way to solve the problem and to save our great state. The only way to do it is to spread the sacrifice. It saves and crews needed masks to breathe.

Trash was piled from floor to ceiling in places, and feces and urine was throughout the home.

Forty-two ailing and feces-covered dogs were rescued Wednesday. Crews returned

our state from financial ruin and from drowning into the fiscal abyss."

The measures passed by the Legislature technically amounted to a revision of a 2009-10 fiscal year budget that lawmakers passed in February during an emergency session. Since then, the state's fiscal condition has grown more dire by the week, led by a dramatic drop in personal income tax revenue. The cash crisis has become so acute that California has been forced to send promissory notes instead of payments to thousands of state contractors and was facing the prospect of being unable to fund pension contributions and or pay employees by September.

The most populous U.S. state and the world's eighth-largest economy has been

Thursday and found more than 60 dogs, and about 10 more were rescued Friday, police said.

The smell, noticeable from the street Thursday and Friday, may have been contained previously because windows were closed and covered. □

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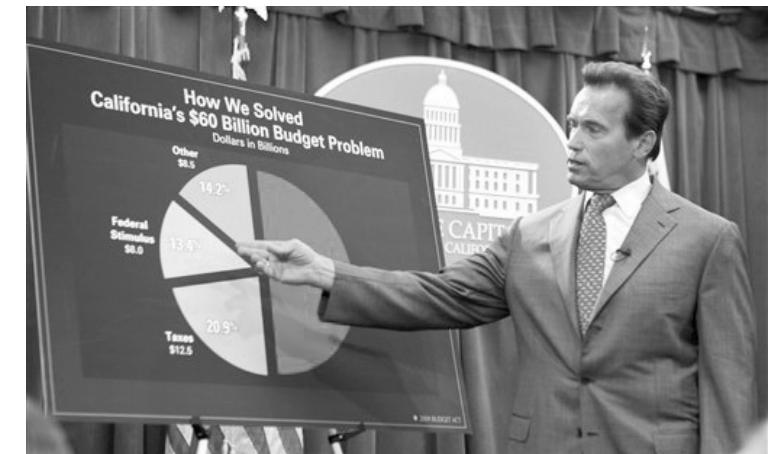
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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger gestures toward a chart as he describes how he and legislative leaders resolved the state's \$26 billion state budget deficit during a Capitol news conference in Sacramento, Calif., Friday, July 24, 2009. Lawmakers worked through the night to approve a complex package of spending cuts, local government raids and accounting maneuvers to fill California's gigantic budget deficit. Schwarzenegger is expected to sign the budget bills after making further cuts early next week.

Associated Press

hammered by the recession, leading to a steep plunge in income, sales, property and capital gains taxes.

While lawmakers agreed the deficit-closing plan was distasteful, most said they had little choice.

"There are no easy solutions to problems like this," said Senate Republican Leader Dennis Hollingsworth.

The budget agreement will be felt in nearly every community

of the nation's most populous state.

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matinee:	2:00			late show: 11:30

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daily:	5:35	7:45	9:45	
matinee:	1:15	3:25		late show: 12:00

PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2			NEW
daily:	6:00	9:00		
matinee:	12:00	2:55		late show: 11:50

PG-13	I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER			NEW
daily:	4:20	6:30	8:45	
matinee:	12:00	2:10		late show: 11:10

PG-13	YEAR ONE			NEW
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matinee:	12:25	2:35		late show: 11:00

R	THE HANGOVER			NEW
daily:	5:30	7:40	9:50	
matinee:	1:15	3:25		late show: 12:00

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daily:	4:00	6:00	8:00	
matinee:	12:00	2:00		late show: 11:00

PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2			NEW
daily:	5:40	8:30		
matinee:	12:05	2:50		late show: 11:25

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matinee:				late show: 11:50

Matinee: everyday | Late show: fri & sat

This July 20, 2009 file photo released by an official website of the Iranian supreme leader's office shows Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, right, and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sitting under a portrait of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, during a meeting in Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

VP CONTROVERSY

Continued from Page B1

The final blow, however, appeared to be the public reading on state television of the order issued earlier by Khamenei to dismiss Mashai because he is "contrary to the interest of you and the government."

The issue created a rare rift between Ahmadinejad and

the hard-liners that form the bedrock of his support and comes at a particular sensitive time as he is battling opposition reformists who accuse him of winning the June 12 presidential elections through fraud.

"After the announcement of the exalted supreme leader's order, Mashai doesn't consider himself first vice president," IRNA quoted presidential aide Mojtaba Samareh Hashemi as saying late Friday.

The resignation capped a day of renewed pressure that featured conservative student street demonstrations and Friday sermons railing against Mashai's appointment.

Despite all the pressure, Ahmadinejad had pleaded for more time to explain his reasons for choosing a man he had described as a "pious, caring, honest and creative caretaker for Iran." Mashai's son is also married to the president's daughter.

The president even continued to back his man after his greatest supporter and the supreme leader of the country issued a private order Monday telling him that the appointment "causes a rift and disillusionment among your supporters. The aforementioned appointment must be canceled and consider it null and void."

Reading the order publicly Friday dramatically increased the pressure on Ahmadinejad, and further refusal to act would have amounted to a flagrant and public defiance of the supreme leader.

The issue was also the topic of the main Friday prayer sermon

in Tehran. Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami said that "now that he (Khamenei) has expressed his opinion, there is no room for delay anymore."

Khamenei has the final say over all state matters and has rarely faced defiance in the past. That changed following last month's election when supporters of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi challenged Khamenei's ruling that the June 12 vote was fair. The flap over the vice presidency appears to signal a move by Khamenei to entrench for himself an even more unquestionable status in the face of the reformist threat. By demanding Mashai's removal, Khamenei is effectively appropriating a new power, since normally the supreme leader does not intervene openly to remove a government official, though he is believed to often vet appointments behind the scenes.

The president's brief defiance may have been out of fear of an attempt by hard-liners to dictate the government he is due to form next month.

Mashai angered hard-liners in 2008 when he said Iranians were "friends of all people in the world—even Israelis." He was serving as vice president in charge of tourism and cultural heritage at the time.

Iran has 12 vice presidents, but the first vice president is the most important because he succeeds the president if he dies, is incapacitated, steps down or is removed. The first vice president also leads Cabinet meetings in the absence of the president.

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Iranian airliner skids off runway killing 17

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An Iranian plane carrying 153 passengers and crew skidded off the runway and crashed Friday while landing in northeast Iran, killing at least 17 people, the state news agency said.

Among the dead was the manager of the privately owned Aria Airlines, operator of the plane.

Television footage showed the plane sitting at an angle, its tail resting awkwardly on the ground and the mangled front end pointing toward the sky. The rest of the aircraft appeared largely intact.

The crash came just over a week after another Iranian passenger plane nose-dived into the ground shortly after takeoff, killing all 168 people aboard.

Iran's aging fleet is plagued by maintenance problems, blamed on financial straits and U.S. sanctions that make it harder for the country to get many types of spare parts.

The official IRNA news agency reported that in Friday's crash, the plane's tires failed on landing and the craft skidded into a wall. No wall was visible in the footage broadcast on TV.

The Russian-made Ilyushin-62 plane had flown from Tehran, the Iranian capital, to the northeastern city of Mashhad, 600 miles away.

Local official Ghahrman

Rashid told the state news agency that 20 people were injured. He said all the survivors had been evacuated.

U.S. sanctions prevent Iran from updating its 30-year-old American aircraft and make it difficult to get European spare parts or planes as well. The country has come to rely on Russian aircraft, many of them Soviet-era planes that are harder to get parts for since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Iran's worst crash came in February 2003 and also involved a Russian-made Ilyushin that plowed into the mountains of southeastern Iran, killing 302 people — mostly members of the elite Revolutionary Guard.

Some of the jets in Iran's fleet are U.S.-made craft bought before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which led to a cutoff in ties between the nations. U.S. sanctions imposed after the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in November 1979 have prevented Iran from buying parts for those planes



An Iranian passenger jet is seen after skidding off a runway and crashing at an airport in the city of Mashhad, 600 miles northeast of the capital Tehran, Iran, Friday, July 24, 2009. An Iranian passenger plane skidded off the runway during its landing in northeast Iran and crashed, shredding the cockpit into a tangled mass of wreckage and killing 17 people, the state news agency said.

Associated Press

or purchasing new ones. The sanctions also bar sales of European jets with a certain amount of U.S. parts, limiting Iran's ability to buy from Europe.

As a result, Iran has focused on Russian-built planes — like the Tupolev and Ilyushins, the Soviet-era workhorses for Russian civil air fleets.

After the Soviet collapse,

government funding sharply declined for manufacturers of aircraft and spare parts, and other countries using the planes have had a harder time getting parts. □



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Ousted Honduran leader returns home - briefly

MORGAN LEE

Associated Press Writer

EL PARAISO, Honduras

(AP) — Ousted President Manuel Zelaya took a symbolic step into his homeland Friday, vowing to reclaim his post a month after soldiers flew him into exile.

But he stayed less than 30 minutes before returning to Nicaragua, saying the risk of bloodshed was too great. He said he would give talks with the coup-installed government another try.

"I am not afraid but I'm not crazy either," Zelaya told the Venezuela-based television network Telesur. "There could be violence and I don't want to be the cause."

Shortly before Zelaya's crossing, his supporters clashed with soldiers and police nearby after the government ordered everyone off the streets along the 600-mile (1,000-kilometer) border with Nicaragua in a noon-to-

dawn curfew. Police said one demonstrator was slightly injured.

Wearing his trademark white cowboy hat, Zelaya walked up to a sign reading "Welcome to Honduras" and smiled to cheering supporters at the remote mountain pass flanked by banana trees.

He stopped a few steps into Honduran territory, speaking to nearby military officials on his mobile phone.

"I've spoken to the colonel and he told me I could not cross the border," Zelaya said. "I told him I could cross."

But he soon went back to Nicaragua and said he was ready to return to the negotiating table.

"The best thing is to reach an understanding that respects the will of the people," Zelaya said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Zelaya's trip "reckless." International leaders had



Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya, right, arrives surrounded by supporters at the Nicaragua-Honduras border in Las Manos, Nicaragua, Friday, July 24, 2009. Thousands of Hondurans traveled to the remote border between Honduras and Nicaragua to support Manuel Zelaya's bid to reclaim the presidency from the government that ousted him in a June 28 coup.

Associated Press

of the political spectrum say Zelaya's return to power is crucial to the region's stability.

But Washington and the Organization of American States have asked Zelaya to be patient and not return on his own, fearing it would plunge the country into chaos.

"President Zelaya's effort to reach the border is reckless," Clinton said in Washington. She said it would not help restore democratic and constitutional order in Honduras.

An initial attempt to fly home on July 5 was frustrated when officials blocked the runway of the Honduran capital's airport. Honduras' Supreme Court ordered Zelaya's arrest before the coup because he ignored court orders to drop plans for a referendum on whether to form a constitutional assembly. The military decided to send Zelaya into exile instead.

The government said the border curfew was intended to preserve the peace, but by late afternoon authorities did not appear to be enforcing it.

All governments in the Western Hemisphere have condemned the coup, in which soldiers acting on orders from Congress and the Supreme Court arrested Zelaya and flew him into exile. Nations on both sides

urged Zelaya not to go home without an agreement out of fear it would lead to bloodshed. Zelaya had said he had no choice after U.S.-backed talks with his ousters failed to reinstate him.

The interim government has insisted it will arrest Zelaya once he returns, ignoring threats of sanctions from nations worldwide if he is not reinstated. Soldiers formed a human chain near the border crossing Friday but did not move to approach Zelaya.

In a statement, the interim government of Roberto Micheletti said it too still believes in negotiations. Its deputy foreign minister, Marta Alvarado, accused Zelaya of seeking "subversion and a bloodbath."

Interim Deputy Security Minister Mario Perdomo told The Associated Press that authorities didn't bother to arrest Zelaya because he barely entered Honduras.

"Zelaya made a show of entering Honduras, he put one foot in, and left," Perdomo said. "And he did this in a dead zone of the frontier, which we tolerated."

Zelaya said his reinstatement

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Huge telescope opens in Spain's Canary Islands

CARLOS MORENO

Associated Press Writer

LA PALMA, Canary Islands (AP) — One of the world's

most powerful telescopes has opened its shutters for the first time to begin exploring faint light from distant parts of the universe.

The Gran Telescopio Canarias, a €130 million (\$185 million) telescope featuring a 34-foot reflecting mirror, sits atop an extinct volcano. Its location above cloud cover takes advantage of the pristine skies in the Atlantic Ocean.

Planning for the telescope began in 1987 and has

involved more than 1,000 people from 100 companies. It was inaugurated Friday by King Juan Carlos.

The observatory is located at 7,870 feet above sea-level where prevailing winds keep the atmosphere stable and transparent, the Canary Islands Astrophysics Institute said. The institute, which runs the telescope, said it will capture the birth of stars, study characteristics of black holes and decipher some of the chemical components of the Big Bang.

The telescope is composed of 36 separate mirrors that began

slowly focusing in July 2007 to eventually act as a single large reflecting surface that directs light onto a central camera point.

Among those who have done research at La Palma is Brian May, lead guitarist of rock group Queen, who studied there for part of his doctorate in astrophysics at the institute. May, who published "BANG! The Complete History of the Universe" with astronomers Patrick Moore and Chris Lintott, composed a musical score for the telescope's inauguration.

Large reflecting telescopes



The Gran Telescopio Canarias, one of the the world's largest telescopes is seen at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory in the Canary Island of La Palma, Spain, Friday July 24, 2009. The euro130 million (\$179 million) telescope, designed to take advantage of pristine, clear skies at the Roque de los Muchachos observatory atop the Atlantic island of La Palma, was inaugurated Friday.

Associated Press

began making major contributions to astronomical research when Edwin Hubble perfected the technique of capturing photographic

exposures of space with the then-massive 200-inch mirror at Mount Palomar Observatory, in north San Diego County, California in Jan. 1949. □



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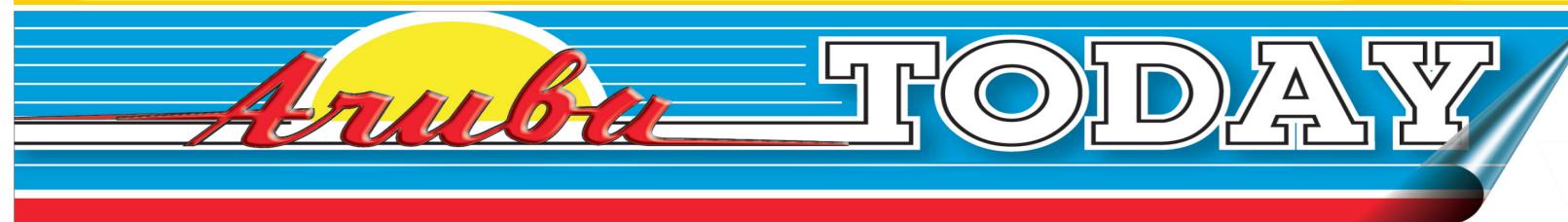
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In this May 26, 2005, file photo, Jeremy Mayfield sits in the garage during practice at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C. Mayfield is back under suspension for a failed random drug test after an appeals court ruled in NASCAR's favor Friday, July 24, 2009, issuing a stay on the injunction that gave the driver the right to return to the race track.

Associated Press

Appeals court rules for NASCAR on Mayfield ban

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jeremy Mayfield is back under suspension for a failed random drug test after an appeals court ruled in NASCAR's favor on Friday, issuing a stay on the injunction that gave the driver the right to return to the race track.

The one-page decision by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stands until NASCAR's full appeal can be heard.

NASCAR had appealed to the Richmond, Virginia court after a federal judge on July 1 lifted Mayfield's suspension based on the argument that the drug testing system was flawed.

U.S. District Court Graham Mullen still has NASCAR's request before him to overturn his earlier decision based on its claim that Mayfield tested positive for methamphetamine a second time on July 6. □

FINA bans record-setting bodysuits

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Swimming's governing body banned the record-setting bodysuits on Friday, a major step in limiting technology in the pool.

FINA has come under criticism for its failure to regulate the rapid advances in swimsuit technology that has led to 108 world records last year and nearly 30 so far this year.

Some suits are suspected of creating "air trapping" effects that artificially enhance speed.

"The most important thing is the future, the past we cannot change," FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu said. "The congress has made a very big statement."

A U.S. proposal to limit the amount of swimsuit coverage — between the waist and knees for males, not beyond the shoulders or below the knees for females — was overwhelmingly passed by



Cullen Jones of the United States adjusts his bodysuit during a training session at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Friday, July 24, 2009. Record-setting bodysuits were banned by FINA on Friday, with swimming's governing body taking a major step to limit technology in the pool. A U.S. proposal to limit the amount of swimsuit coverage, between the waist and knees for males, not beyond the shoulders or below the knees for females, was overwhelmingly passed by the FINA congress, meeting in Rome during the world championships.

Associated Press

the FINA congress, meeting in Rome during the world championships.

The new rule also says suits shall only be made from "textiles," but that term has yet to be defined.

"The most important thing is that it's textile only," Mark Schubert, head coach and general manager of the U.S. national team, told The Associated Press. "I think we sent a strong message as to our feeling of what the suit should be."

The new rules won't take effect at these swimming championships, where dozens of world records could be set in suits made from materials such as polyurethane.

The legislation was passed as a general rule, but then a subsequent motion from Britain to make the rules part of FINA's bylaws was accepted, putting the matter in the hands of FINA's bureau.

Continued on Page B13

NL Roundup

Giants beat Braves to avoid sweep

ATLANTA (AP) — The San Francisco Giants avoided a four-game sweep by beating the Atlanta Braves 5-1 in the National League on Thursday.

Picher Barry Zito gave up only three hits in seven innings as the Giants moved within a game of Colorado in the provisional NL wildcard slot.

The Braves had been aiming for their first ever four-game home sweep of San Francisco.

Zito walked five batters but gave up just one run, Yunel Escobar's second-inning homer, and San Francisco scored four unearned runs in the eighth to break a 1-1 tie.

Phillies 9, Padres 4

In Philadelphia, the hosts returned to winning way with a comfortable victory over San Diego.

A day after their 10-game winning streak ended, the Phillies moved 6-1/2 games ahead of Atlanta and Florida atop the NL East.

Cole Hamels pitched seven effective innings, allowing four hits, to record only his second win in nine starts.

Jayson Werth and Pedro Feliz both had three hits for the Phillies, who scored three runs in the second, one in the third and four in



San Francisco Giants' Barry Zito works against the Atlanta Braves during the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, July 23, 2009 in Atlanta.

Associated Press

the fourth and finished with 14 hits.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 4

In Phoenix, Arizona piled on five runs in the seventh inning to overcome Pittsburgh.

In other NL games it was, San Francisco 5, Atlanta 1; Philadelphia 9, San Diego 4; St. Louis 4, Washington 1, 7 innings; and Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 4. □

Cavendish wins Tour 19th stage

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

AUBENAS, France (AP) — Mark Cavendish of Britain won the 19th stage of the Tour de France on Friday, and Alberto Contador retained his commanding overall lead with two racing days left.

Cavendish earned his fifth stage victory this year, edging Thor Hushovd of Norway and Gerald Ciolek of Germany in the relatively flat 110.6-mile ride from Bourgoin-Jallieu to Aubenas. They all finished in 3 hours, 50 minutes, 35 seconds.

Lance Armstrong crossed with the same time to retain third place overall, trimming four seconds off his deficit to Contador and second-place Andy Schleck of Luxembourg.

While Hushovd is likely to win the green jersey awarded to the Tour's best sprinter this year, Cavendish became the first racer to win

five Tour stages in a single year since Armstrong in 2004.

"This is a high point in my career," Cavendish said on French TV, acknowledging that a little hill at the finish meant the layout wasn't suited to his strengths. "It was particularly difficult." Overall, Contador leads Schleck by 4:11 and Armstrong by 5:21 heading into the last big stage — Saturday's 103.8-mile ride from Montelimar to a punishing uphill finish up the famed Mont Ventoux.

"It's really hard, I'd very much like there not to be a climb," Contador said of the widely dreaded mountain. "There's a lot of headwind."

While his lockhold on the yellow jersey isn't under much threat, Contador said his first job Saturday will be to defend it — but that he will help Armstrong get a spot on the podium, if he can.

The extra four seconds that Armstrong collected by riding among the 12-man sprinters' group could come in handy because he is closely trailed in the overall standings for third.

"Tomorrow is the big day, but that's what made the ride today hard because already we're a bit into the stage (mentally)," Schleck said. "Tomorrow it's the legs that will do the talking."

Schleck said that in comparison to Mont Ventoux, L'Alpe d'Huez — another of France's most punishing climbs — is "a piece of cake."

Bradley Wiggins of Britain, a three-time Olympic pursuit champion who has



Mark Cavendish of Britain, center, crosses the finish line to win the 19th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 110.6 miles with start in Bourgoin-Jallieu and finish in Aubenas, southern France, Friday July 24, 2009. Left is Thor Hushovd of Norway, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, who took second place.

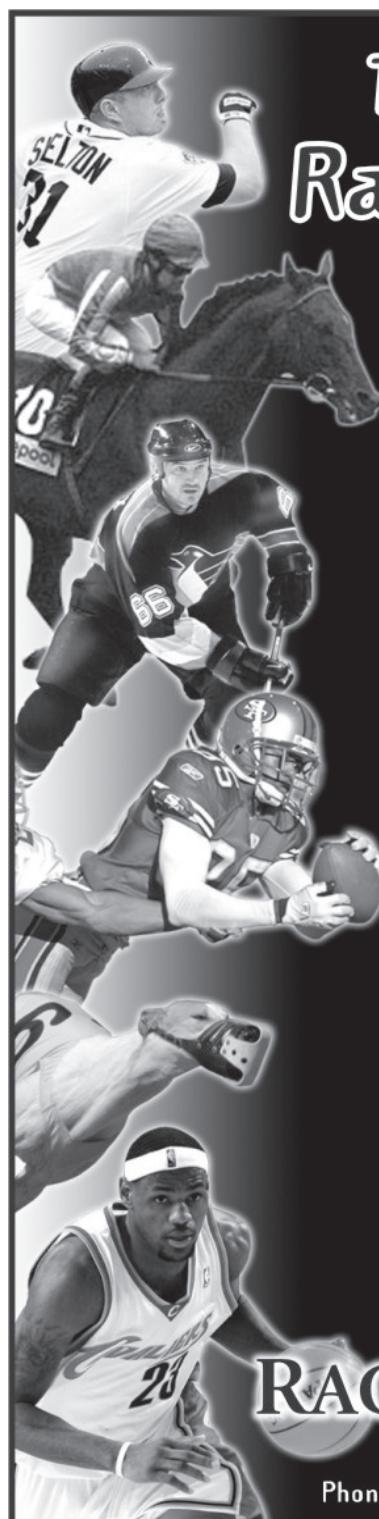
Associated Press

fared well in the mountains this year, is fourth — 15 seconds slower than the Texan. Germany's Andreas Kloeden is fifth, 17 seconds behind his Astana teammate Armstrong.

The race ends Sunday in Paris, with what is usually a ceremonial ride on the Champs-Elysees for the rider in the yellow jersey. □

brother Frank, a strong climber who is sixth overall — 5:59 behind Contador and 38 seconds slower than Armstrong.

The race ends Sunday in Paris, with what is usually a ceremonial ride on the Champs-Elysees for the rider in the yellow jersey. □



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Vick's legal sentence ends, more judgments await



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell speaks to reporters during a news conference Tuesday, July 21, 2009 in New York. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell isn't revealing when he'll decide whether to reinstate Michael Vick now that the former Atlanta Falcons star quarterback has been released from federal custody.

Associated Press

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Michael Vick's federal dogfighting sentence is scheduled to end Monday and that is also when the former NFL superstar will go back on trial — facing a whole new series of judgments.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, teams, fans and sponsors are among those who will weigh in on Vick's future.

First and foremost, Goodell must decide whether Vick's

suspension will end and, if so, when — allowing the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback a chance to play in the league again. Goodell is expected to act fairly quickly, so Vick and teams know his status for the coming season. Training camps for veterans start opening next weekend.

There has been communication between Vick's camp and the league about the process, although neither side is making substantive comments publicly about where things stand. Vick has kept silent

and probably will continue to do so until Goodell makes an announcement. While Goodell is declining interview requests on this topic, his position is fairly well-outlined: He wants a face-to-face meeting, and Vick must show serious contrition.

"Michael's going to have to demonstrate to myself and the general public and to a lot of people: Did he learn anything from this experience? Does he regret what happened?" Goodell said in May. "Does he feel that he can be a positive influence going forward? Those are questions that I would like to see when I sit with him."

Once Goodell's ruling is rendered, NFL clubs will have to determine what, if any, interest they have in Vick. Among the questions teams will ponder: What kind of shape is he in? What position should he play? What type of public relations hit might he bring?

"Teams certainly are going to want to know: Where is his mind-set? Going forward, is he going to be a good citizen? You'd interview him and hope you get a good feel in the interview. That's the first

thing," former Washington and Houston general manager Charley Casserly said. "The second thing is: You've got a guy two years out of football, with no structured conditioning program."

NFL teams are allowed to initiate talks with Vick because the Falcons released him in June. He was cut less than five years after signing a \$130 million, 10-year contract.

Vick's agent, Joel Segal, would not discuss whether teams have been in contact about his client.

An AP survey of the 31 other NFL clubs in November found that at least a half-dozen teams would not shut the door on the possibility of acquiring Vick at some stage.

At his best, Vick — who turned 29 last month — was as dynamic an athlete as there was in the NFL, a No. 1 overall draft pick and three-time Pro Bowl selection who led the Falcons to the 2005 NFC championship game. He was the first NFL quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards in a season; he also never threw for more than 3,000 yards or 20 touchdowns in any season, and his career completion percentage is below 55.

Vick's release from federal custody comes on Monday, when he can stop wearing an electronic monitor as he begins three years' probation. He is finishing a two-month home confinement in Hampton, Virginia, which completes a 23-month sentence after he admitted bankrolling a dogfighting operation. Court papers revealed gruesome details about the operation, including the killing of underperforming dogs by electrocution, drowning and hanging.

That is why his toughest critics moving forward could be animal rights activists. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wrote to Goodell in January, saying Vick shouldn't be allowed to return to the NFL unless he submits to a psychological evaluation. The general consensus among NFL players appears to line up with the opinion expressed this week on Twitter by Washington Redskins cornerback DeAngelo Hall, a former college teammate: "I honestly think Mike has paid his debt to society. I would love to see him play again sooner than later! But I respect the NFL." □

WNBA Roundup

Sliver Stars drub Fever 84-65

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Sophia Young scored 22 of her 24 points in the first half to help revive the struggling San Antonio Silver Stars in a 84-65 drubbing of the Indiana Fever in the WNBA on Thursday.

The Silver Stars, who had lost three of their last four, also stepped up defensively, holding leading All-Star vote-getter Tamika Catchings scoreless on 0-for-9 shooting.

Young, a Western Conference reserve for this weekend's All-Star game, played only seven minutes after halftime. Catchings played only three as the Silver Stars pushed the lead to as much as 30 points in the first half.

The Fever cut the margin to 13 with reserves from both teams playing in the second half.

Mystics 75, Sky 64

At Washington, Crystal Langhorne had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Lindsey Harding scored 15 points, including nine in the fourth quarter, for the home team.

Matee Ajavon added 14 points as the Mystics closed the first half of the season with their eighth win, two away from matching their

total from last season.

Jia Perkins scored 14 points and Candice Dupree added 10 points to lead Chicago, which used an 8-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to get within 57-48, but Ajavon keyed a run, including back-to-back 3-pointers, to give the Mystics their largest lead at 65-48.

Monarchs 88, Liberty 73

At New York, Nicole Powell scored a career-high 32 points and had nine rebounds to help Sacramento snap a six-game losing streak.

Kara Lawson scored 15 points and DeMya Walker had 13 points and nine rebounds for Sacramento, which won for the first time since July 7. Powell was 12 for 16 from the field, including 5 for 8 on 3-pointers.

Essence Carson scored a career-high 20 points and Shameka Christon added 14 for New York.

In other action around the league, San Antonio 84, Indiana 65; and Washington 75, Chicago 64; and Sacramento 88, New York 73. □



Silver Stars' Helen Darling, center, fight for the ball in front of Indiana Fever's Jessica Moore in the first half of a basketball game at the AT&T Center in San Antonio on Thursday, July 23, 2009.

Associated Press



FINA

Continued from Page B10

General swimming rules only come up for discussion at the FINA congress every four years, whereas the bureau meets several times each year, and can also convene on short notice.

"We didn't disagree with the U.S. proposal, but we wanted the flexibility to amend it as technology moves on, and we can now," said David Sparkes, the chief executive of British Swimming. "Technically, the bureau could even convene over e-mail."

"For sure it's not the end of the road in terms of innovation." But bureau bylaws pertain only to world championships and Olympics.

"FINA rules in general are only for worlds and Olympics. It's normally up to each federation to decide on their own rules," Marculescu said. "We will clarify it and hopefully finish with the suit controversy."

USA Swimming will conform to the international standard. "Our policy has always been to follow FINA rules," Schubert said.

The question of how to define textiles is unlikely to be determined until the next FINA bureau meeting in September or October.

"This is only a small part of (the problem).

It's not only shape and material. There are many other things," Marculescu said.

With the high-tech bodysuits still in use, multiple records are expected in this meet — records that could stand for some time.

"I think it will be difficult to eclipse those records if we go back to true swimming, without the rubberized suits," Schubert said. "The East German times stood for a long time but even they got broken, so I'm sure our athletes will be up to the challenge."

Schubert also backs attaching an asterisk to records set over the last 18 months.

"That's something the FINA bureau is going to have to address. That was just an idea, perhaps to have two lists — one list with the new suits, then one list with the old suits," he said. □



The Americans originally wanted men's suits to be limited only from going beyond the shoulders or knees.

"We amended it last night after meeting last night with Cornel and the coaches of the major swimming countries, and that was the consensus of the coverage that they wanted, so that's why we made the switch," Schubert said.

"It was a little bit more severe switch, but we're pleased."

Paolo Barelli, the president of the Italian swimming federation, had a mixed reaction. Italy was opposed to the new suits before last year's Olympics, when the Americans and Australians benefited with Speedo's LZR.

Now, bodysuits from Italian manufacturers Jaked and Arena are considered the fastest on the market.

"All the nations now need to study this rule carefully, without regard to manufacturers or market factors," Barelli said. "We've got to take a step backward, with precise rules equal for everyone. My Anglo-Saxon friends need to realize that this mess began in Jan. 2008."

Jaked president Francesco Fabbrica, who named his company after his sons Giacomo (Jake) and Edoardo (Ed), said he was happy with the decision.

"While it would seem like today's decision was a punch to the stomach, that's actually not the case," Fabbrica said. "We applaud today's decision. We're pleased with the new rules. In fact, we already have new technology ready for after the worlds." □

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Aclara Córdova que no hay rebrote de influenza A(H1N1)

MÉXICO - El secretario de Salud, José Angel Córdova Villalobos, señaló que no hay rebrote de influenza A(H1N1) en el país, a pesar de que zona sureste.

Sin embargo, destacó que no se debe bajar la guardia en ningún estado y mantener las medidas de prevención, al tiempo de asegurar que la dependencia a su cargo apoya a todas las entidades por igual, "porque los programas son de todos".

"Vamos a trabajar con todos los gobiernos de los estados, sin ninguna distinción. Donde haya más problemitas le vamos a echar más los kilos, porque los programas son de todos, no son de un estado, y nos incumbe a todos, por eso hemos estado interviniendo", sostuvo.

Entrevistado al término de la entrega de reconocimientos

a alumnos destacados del programa "Sigamos Aprendiendo... en el Hospital", el funcionario señaló que casos de influenza A(H1N1) van a seguir registrándose porque el virus adecuada separación social entre los contagiados. "No creo que sea este el rebrote de diciembre, lo que pasa es que sí estamos teniendo brotes en varios estados de la República, lo más importante es en el sureste, pero hemos tenido algunos casos en el sur de Tamaulipas, incluso un fallecimiento en Colima, dos en Guanajuato; tenemos que estar atentos en todo el país, sin bajar la guardia", dijo. Por ello, agregó, se reforzarán las acciones de prevención y detección temprana con cursos especiales de capacitación y comunicación, sobre todo para prevenir que en diciembre se dispare esta enfermedad y

evitar fallecimientos, porque casos van a seguir habiendo.

En ese sentido, Córdova Villalobos subrayó que, como lo dijo "la Organización Mundial de la Salud, ya no es tan importante que estén contando los casos, lo importante es contar los casos graves, aquellos que se hospitalizan y las defunciones".

Consideró que los casos del sureste pueden deberse a la complicada topología, porque ello impide llegar adecuadamente con la información de esta enfermedad a todas las comunidades.

Sin embargo, prácticamente más de la mitad de los estados cuentan con el examen de detección de la enfermedad, para que puedan hacer su diagnóstico de inmediato. □

Empresarios rusos exploran negocios en Panamá

PANAMA - Un docena de empresarios rusos visita Panamá para explorar oportunidades de negocios y mercados para sus productos en sectores como la industria de alimentos, licores y metales.

Los empresarios se reunieron el jueves con sus contrapartes de la Cámara de Comercio Industrias y Agricultura de Panamá, a fin de conocer sobre las oportunidades de inversión que ofrece este país.

"La posición geográfica estratégica de Panamá sirve de punto de partida para llegar a los países de América del Sur, América del Norte y Centroamérica", dijo Dimitri Rausch, gerente de la Allianz IG Invest Group, que organizó la visita.

"Las empresas rusas estarían interesadas en exportar sus producción a Panamá, en sectores como los metales o productos de acero", entre otros dijo Rausch. La misión también tienen el objetivo de mostrar "las oportunidades de inversión a las empresas panameñas que quieran llegar al mercado ruso y lograr un intercambio de negocios y de cooperación en ambas direcciones", agregó.

La misión también visitará la zonal franca de Colón, en el Atlántico, y se reunirá con sus autoridades.

En la reunión participaron empresarios panameños del sector de bienes raíces, fabricación de pinturas, comercio y de almacenamiento de carga, entre otros. Panamá y Rusia tienen un modesto intercambio comercial. □



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